

A word of welcome...

“Father, you created us in love to share your divine life. We see this high destiny in the love of husband and wife, which bears the imprint of your divine life.

Love is our origin, love is our constant calling, and love is our fulfillment in heaven.

The love of man and woman is made holy in the sacrament of marriage, and becomes the mirror of your own divine love.” (The Rite of Marriage)

We are blessed to share the journey to your wedding day with you! As we prepare for that day, our goals are two-fold: To enable you to deepen your relationship with each other and with God, and to assure a wedding liturgy that is meaningful and prayerful. Planning such an event involves many details. This booklet is intended to answer some basic questions regarding weddings here at Saint Mary Parish. The pastoral staff is ready to help you in whatever way possible.

May Christ accompany you on your journey of love.

*Rev. Nicholas Desimone,
Pastor*

Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage
Saint Mary Parish
Uxbridge, Massachusetts

Preliminary Arrangements: Couples planning to be married should contact the parish priest at least *one year* prior to the proposed wedding date. The priest will arrange to meet with the couple to discuss the wedding plans as well as the pre-nuptial preparation and catechesis.

No definite date for the wedding can be set in the parish calendar until the necessary paperwork has been initiated.

Every couple participates in an *Engaged Encounter Weekend, and Couple to Couple Ministry* or some other program, which explores the interpersonal challenges of marriage and provides a context to explore the meaning of marriage as a sacrament.

Weddings may be celebrated in either the church of the bride or the groom or even at another church, with the pastor's permission. Non-parishioners of Saint Mary's are welcome to celebrate their weddings at Saint Mary Church with the pastor's permission.

Dates and Times: While most weddings are celebrated on Saturdays, Sundays, or on Friday evenings, a wedding may be scheduled on any day of the week, provided it does not conflict with the parish schedule or with liturgical law.

Saturday weddings may be scheduled between 10:00am and 2:30pm
Sunday weddings may be scheduled between 2:00pm and 6:00pm

Rehearsal Times: The wedding rehearsal is normally held on the day before the wedding, usually in the afternoon or evening. However, it may be held at another time within a few days of the wedding. The date and time of the rehearsal should be set in advance in order to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Visiting Clergy: The pastor or the deacon is usually the presider at weddings celebrated in Saint Mary Church. However, we realize that many families have priests and deacons as relatives and friends. We welcome them to celebrate weddings here at Saint Mary's. It is parish policy that the marriage celebrant chosen by the couple completes all the necessary paperwork, assure pre-nuptial preparation, and conduct the wedding rehearsal.

Form of Celebration: When two Roman Catholics celebrate their wedding in the presence of a priest, the marriage liturgy usually includes the celebration of the Mass. The unity of the marriage covenant is highlighted through the bride and groom together sharing in the Eucharist.

However, there may be very good reasons for celebrating the wedding liturgy apart from the celebration of Mass. The priest presiding at your wedding will be very willing to discuss this with you.

Liturgical Music: The wedding liturgy is above all else a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of the love that the bride and groom share together. Hence, the music and songs during the ceremony are meant to unite those gathered in prayer. It should be carefully chosen and led by persons with both a familiarity with the Catholic liturgy and possessing musical expertise. Non-religious and 'pop' songs are not appropriate to the liturgy and best reserved for the wedding reception.

Our Music director, organist, and keyboardist, Mr. Daniel Zabinski will work with you at your earliest convenience to explore various musical selections for the ceremony. In addition, he will be happy to explore with you the incorporation of other musical instruments into the wedding liturgy. He is able to provide appropriate vocal accompaniment as well. (Tel: 774.217.0096)

Photography and Videotaping: You are welcome to both photography and videotaping before, during, and after the wedding liturgy. However, once the wedding party has taken its place in the church, it is important that photographers keep to *the far right, the far left sides of the church and to the balcony area* so as to not disrupt or impede the view of the participants. Photographers should be sure to review the details of the ceremony with the priest or deacon, prior to the ceremony.

Documents

The Church requires that certain documents be produced in order to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. The couple is responsible for obtaining these documents. With the exception of the civil marriage license, these documents must be completed and returned to the priest or deacon preparing the couple for marriage at least two months before the wedding ceremony. The receipt of these documents is the only way that we can be sure that the marriage can be performed in the Catholic Church.

1. **Baptism Certificate:** Calling or writing the parish of your Baptism can obtain an updated Baptism Certificate. It must be stamped with the seal of the parish and dated within six months of the wedding. If one of the parties involved has been baptized but is not Catholic, a certificate of baptism must also be obtained.
2. **Declaration of Nullity:** If there was a previous Sacramental Marriage, a declaration of nullity must be obtained.
3. **Pastor's Letter of Permission:** Non-parishioners must obtain a letter giving the permission of their pastor for the wedding to take place at Saint Mary Church.
4. **Civil Marriage License:** A civil marriage license must be obtained in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts within 60 days of the marriage and must be brought to the rehearsal.

Marriage License: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that the person officiating at a wedding be in possession of the marriage license at the time of the wedding. Hence, the license must be presented to the priest or deacon at the rehearsal or earlier. Licenses are obtained from any city or town clerk in the state. Both parties must appear personally before the clerk.

Flowers: You are welcome to adorn the sanctuary with flowers for the wedding liturgy. Please speak to the priest or deacon regarding the appropriate placement thereof. You are also welcome to tie or affix "pew bows" provided they do no damage the wood surface of the pews. After the wedding ceremony, you are free to take the flowers with you or to leave them as a gift to the parish.

Receptions: Please do not presume that the priest or deacon who is celebrating the wedding will be attending the reception. Your invitation will be graciously received. Please do not be offended if parish duties preclude his attendance at the reception.

Other Practicalities:

1. As a courtesy to guests and to avoid potential schedule conflicts with other parish functions, every effort should be made to assure that both rehearsal and wedding ceremony start on time.
2. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the parish grounds.
3. Food and chewing gum are not allowed in the church.
4. White “wedding carpets” or aisle runners are not permitted for reasons of safety.
5. In order to assure an undistracted and reverent atmosphere, cell phone use is prohibited in the church.
6. The unity candle is not permitted as part of the wedding liturgy at Saint Mary Church.

Schedule of Fees:

For the Church

The schedule of fees is based on guidelines established by the Diocese of Worcester. The fees are meant to cover the materials used in Marriage preparation; costs incurred by the use of the church as well some compensation for the priest or deacon presiding.

\$250.00 for parishioners of Saint Mary Parish

\$325.00 for non-parishioners

Checks are made payable to SAINT MARY CHURCH.

For the Music Director/Organist/Keyboardist

The stipend for the Music Director is based the policy of the Diocese of Worcester and in accordance with the guidelines of the *American Guild of Organists*. The stipend is remuneration for his assistance in planning the music and providing musical accompaniment for the liturgy. This stipend must be paid even if other musicians are used, as the music director is responsible for overseeing all the musicians.

\$200.00 - *Checks are made payable to Daniel Zabinski and deliverable at the time of the meeting with him.*

Cantors

\$100.00 - Checks are to be made out to the Cantor who leads the sung parts and vocal accompaniment at your wedding and is deliverable at the time of your meeting with him or her.

Contact Information

**Saint Mary Parish
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Uxbridge, MA 01569
Telephone No.: 508-278-2226
Fax: 508-278-7949**

**Website:
www.stmaryuxbridge.org**

**Pastor's email:
ndesimone@gmail.com**

**Music Director:
Daniel Zabinski
Telephone No.: 774-217-0096**

**Engaged Encounter Website:
www.worcesteree.org (local)**

www.engagedencounter.org (national)