

**"IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER,
GOD WILL LIVE IN US IN PERFECT LOVE"**
1 John 4:12



**Our Lady of the Lakes
Catholic Community
Central Office: St. Michael's
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Penn Yan, NY 14527
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This Book is Intended for

&

to be married at

Over all these virtues put on love,
which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.
Colossians 3:14



Wedding Guidelines

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage in Our Lady of the Lakes.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, **Marriage is a Sacrament**. The lived, day to day relationship sealed through the exchange of vows becomes a sacred place to experience God's incredible love.

For a marriage to be sacramental, two baptized persons, at least one being Catholic...

- Freely enter into a vowed commitment of respect, reverence and love.
- Make this promise for a lifetime, which includes the promise of fidelity, and are
- Open to bearing children, providing for their good and bringing them up in the faith.

The exchange of promises between the bride and groom is a commitment to love one another for life. Thus the couple's love and pledge of fidelity becomes a sign of God's love for God's people. This powerful promise speaks to all assembled.

The priest (deacon), the families of the couple, the attendants and the assembled gathering of friends, witness what the bride and groom promise.

The Church will be reserved for you and the date for your wedding will be set only after you have had your initial interview with one of our priests or deacons. A \$75 deposit will be needed at this interview and is refundable if plans for your wedding change. By this time, you should have already had your meeting with one of them. If you have not, it's important to get on their schedule immediately.

In conclusion, these months of preparation for your marriage will be busy and exciting. If you find there are ways in which the parish staff can be of help, please call.

While your engagement, showers, rehearsal, reception and honeymoon are all significant parts of the celebration of your marriage, the Marriage Ceremony is seen as the center of the Christian celebration.

The prayers, scripture readings, the vows, the giving and receiving of rings, the music, the nuptial blessing-all of these, for you, will be an expression of both faith in God and in each other. They will also express your confidence that the presence and love of God will strengthen and confirm your love for each other.

May these days of preparation hold many blessings!



Planning the Liturgy for your Marriage

Information is included in this booklet which is intended to help you plan your wedding celebration. We very much want your celebration to reflect your choices of prayers, readings, and special participation. The priest or deacon working with you will be happy to assist your planning.

Some of the special ways in which family members and friends can participate are:

- Proclaiming the Scripture readings
- Leading the Prayer of the Faithful
- Bringing up the gifts of bread & wine
- Serving as Eucharistic Ministers

Each of these ministries presumes some training and experience. Please choose people who are experienced to serve as these special ministers.

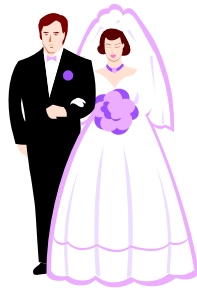
At pre-cana, you should receive a booklet that will help you choose appropriate readings. We have additional booklets available if you did not receive one. In addition, you can use Appendix 2 of this booklet to help prepare for your wedding day.

After the Ceremony

Having made the decision to be married in the church, don't forget to follow through and register in the parish as a newly wed couple. This may mean the simple change of name and address if you are continuing to worship in the Church where you were married, of a new registration if you are moving elsewhere.

Ongoing Support

The Catholic Church wants very much to be a presence in your lives as a couple. Please be attentive to parish activities, as there may be enrichment possibilities for you. Also, when you decide to start a family, please be in touch with the parish staff regarding baptism information and preparation.



Congratulations!



United in Christ

Prayer before Marriage

Lord God,
Source of all love,
Your providence has brought us together.
As we prepare for the sacrament of marriage
We pray for your grace,
That, strengthened by your blessing,
We may grow in respect for one another
And cherish each other with a sincere love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May the God of love and peace
Abide in us, guide our steps,
And confirm our hearts in his love,
Now and forever.
Amen.

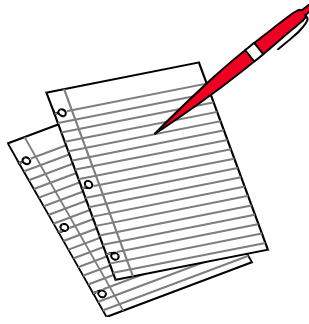


Ceremony

Couples may plan to be married at either a Nuptial Mass or a Nuptial Ceremony. Either celebration will be well planned by the couple, together with your priest or deacon who presides.

If you have a relative or personal or family friend who is a priest or deacon whom you would like to preside at, or be included in, your wedding, mention this at the time of your wedding interview. A presider who is known to you and your family is most welcome in Our Lady of the Lakes.

If your fiancé is of another faith and would like a minister or rabbi to be a part of the ceremony, please mention this at the time of your initial planning.



Contacts to schedule

A minimum of 5 contacts with the parish prior to the day of your wedding will need to occur:

- a) Initial interview: To get acquainted, fill out necessary preliminary paperwork, which includes determining your freedom to marry, setting your date, and discussing diocesan and parish guidelines. Also, you will learn about completing a FOCCUS questionnaire.
- b) Second interview: This is an opportunity to review the FOCCUS survey responses and discuss the strengths and weaknesses in your relationship. At this time there will also be a preliminary discussion of your marriage ceremony.
- c) Music Minister Consultation: Contact the music minister early on in the process to ensure a commitment to your wedding date.
- d) Pre-Cana (here or elsewhere).
- e) Rehearsal—the entire wedding party should attend.

Planning Your Celebration



Music

There are some restrictions on the music that may be used at a Church wedding. Be sure to talk this over with a competent Church musician.

Ideally, you will plan some music the congregation can sing so that all can praise God and pray together for you in music. This is a powerful way to help your friends and family be participants, not simply observers.

As you plan your music think of the following considerations: Does this music fit the context of this liturgical celebration? Is the music technically and esthetically good? Will it help this assembly to pray? Please check with the parish regarding our practice for musicians.

The fee for the organist, for consultation and ceremony, and one rehearsal is \$150.00. The organist can make recommendations for possible cantors.

Our parish musicians are generally available to play at your wedding if not already booked. They can recommend music and possible vocalists.

Baptismal Information

Contact the church where you were baptized and ask for a recently dated copy of your baptismal certificate. Parishes are used to providing this information and it is usually obtained by a simple phone call to the parish secretary.

If you do not know the location of the church, the National Church directory, which we have in our parish office, may be of help.

Pre-Cana

All couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage are required to participate in either Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter. Schedules for both of these forms of marriage preparation will be provided at the time of your initial interview. Pre-Cana must be completed well in advance of your wedding date.

Should unresolved issues arise, they can be dealt with in adequate time, or if appropriate, a wedding can be postponed. Register early to confirm your attendance



Flowers

Flowers may be left in Church or taken to your reception. Be sure to let your florist know where you want them placed in the sanctuary. No flowers will be placed on the altar.

Photography

Our churches are beautiful and we want your celebration to be beautiful also. Instruct your photographer to remain on the sidelines and in no way obstruct your ceremony.

You may remain in Church for photos after your celebration. If your wedding is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, photography must conclude at least one hour before any Saturday Mass.

Share the information in Appendix 1 with your photographer.

Marriage License

Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal. Your witnesses will sign the papers either then or after the ceremony. The priest or deacon will sign on the day of your ceremony and the parish office will return the license for filing.

Rehearsal

Your rehearsal will usually be planned for one day before your celebration. You must schedule this at the time the wedding is arranged to be sure that the Church will be available.

Ordinarily, the rehearsal will last about 45 minutes. All members of the wedding party should be present. Readers may also practice their readings using the microphone at this time.

If you have carefully thought through how you want your wedding to proceed, the rehearsal should move along smoothly.

There may be no consumption of any alcoholic beverage on the Church property at the time of the rehearsal or wedding.

Offerings— The wedding fee is **\$150.00**. This includes any OLOL church (St.

Michael's, St. Mary's, St. Theresa's, St. Januarius & St. Patrick's) and the Wedding

Coordinator. The wedding fee at Norton or Garrett Chapel is **\$125.00**. A deposit of

\$75.00 is due at the time of scheduling the wedding. This fee is refundable if plans for

the wedding change. There is no required standard fee for the person who presides at

your wedding, but gifts are gratefully accepted.

Appendix 1
Wedding Guidelines for Photographers

Couples being married in Our Lady of the Lakes should ask their photographer to respect the sacredness of the Church and the holiness of the commitment they are celebrating. Therefore, the photographer is expected to abide by the following guidelines and do nothing that will distract from the ceremony itself.

Photos may be taken in the aisle before Mass begins and from the choir, side aisles or back, during Mass.

A video camera may be set up in and may run throughout the ceremony, provided it is not moved and the photographer does not move about in a distracting way.

Be sure that the placement of your equipment does not obstruct the flow of traffic in the aisle at communion time.

To keep the focus on the Mass, the wedding ceremony and the Bride and Groom, no photos may be taken from anywhere in the sanctuary during the ceremony.

No flash photos may be taken during the homily or during the Eucharistic Prayer, the consecration or communion of Mass.

Upon arrival at the church, the photographer should ask to see the presiding priest or deacon, give them his or her business card or name in writing, and acknowledge that they are familiar with these guidelines.

If a photographer does not respect these guidelines, he or she will not be welcome to photograph any other wedding in Our Lady of the Lakes.

For a Saturday wedding, all photography must be completed no later than an hour before Mass.

Appendix 2 Couple's Guide for Planning the Marriage Ceremony

If you plan to have a program at your wedding, please use this information as a guide. You will also be selecting the readings and giving them to your presider by using the Together For Life book.

<u>Ceremony Order</u>	<u>Couple Needs to:</u>
Prelude	Select music
Processional	Select music <i>Identify the processional order</i>
Candle Lighting Ceremony (optional)	Decide who will light Candles
Liturgy of the Word	
First Reading	Select first reading Select reader
Responsorial Psalm	Select responsorial psalm (preferably sung)
Second Reading	Select second reading Select reader
Gospel Acclamation	Select Gospel acclamation
Gospel Reading	Select Gospel Priest or deacon will proclaim
Homily	

Exchange of Vows	Select your marriage Vows
Prayers of the Faithful	Prepare prayers Select a reader
Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)	who will light initial candles? Decide on Music
Preparation of the gifts	Select music Decide who will Bring the Bread & Wine to the altar
Nuptial Blessing & Our Lord's Prayer	Select prayer
Communion Rite/ Sign of Peace/Communion	Select Eucharistic Ministers, Select music
Presentation to the Blessed Virgin Mary (optional)	Select Music Have flower(s)
Blessing	Select prayer

This information will be helpful to bring with you to the rehearsal.

Approximate number of guests for church

Name of florist

Presider(s)

Parents

Grandparents

Maid/Matron of Honor

Bridesmaid(s)

Flower Girl

Best Man

Groomsman (men)

Ring bearer

Organist

Cantor

Some Helpful Reminders/Hints For the Bride & Groom

What the couple needs to do at least one week prior to the wedding

- Meet/talk with the presider to make certain everything is in order
- Meet/talk with musician(s) to make certain everything is in order
- Make sure flowers are all set
- Purchase candle if using a unity candle
- Decide on wedding rehearsal time and tell all people who will be participating in the ceremony to be there. Tell them the starting time is at least 15 minutes earlier than you expect.

What the couple needs to bring to the Wedding Rehearsal

- Marriage License
- Separate checks in separate envelopes for: \$75.00
St. Michael Church & \$50.00 Norton Chapel (after \$75 deposit at booking) for
Church or Chapel, Organist \$150, Cantor (fee set by each cantor).
- Programs (optional)
- Guest Book & Pen (optional)
- Marriage Candle (optional)
- Wedding Rings (optional)
- Two copies of each reading on separate sheets

Do's

- Have the ushers in church at least 30 minutes prior to the wedding ceremony
- Eat something prior to the ceremony
- Take care of your personal needs just prior to (including the wedding party)
- Follow the presider—he is great at giving direction!
- Be at the church on your wedding day at least 30 minutes prior to the start time
- DO enjoy yourself—it is the most important day of your new life together!
- As soon as the music starts, leave everything in the hands of the Lord, with the presider's assistance!

Don'ts

- No throwing of rice, birdseed, or flower petals
- No runner or crash in the church
- No alcohol at rehearsal or before wedding
- Don't get too upset if something goes wrong—only you know it was wrong!

updated 9/17/09