

St. John the Evangelist Parish

WEDDING GUIDELINES

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist congratulates you as you prepare for one of the most sacred moments of your lives ... your Marriage! Please take the time to review these guidelines, which provide important information as you begin this journey.

PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING

Meeting with the Pastor

Prior to setting the date for your wedding, it is important to plan an initial meeting with Fr. Thomas Powers, Pastor at St. John Parish, approximately six months prior to your anticipated wedding date. This will be one of a series of meetings that will allow both you and the Priest to get to know each other as well as to discuss the vocation of Marriage. In addition to planning the wedding celebration, documentation required for the Marriage Register will be gathered at these meetings.

Visiting Clergy

If you wish to be married by a Priest other than one from the Parish, we are happy to accommodate you. A visiting Priest must receive delegation from the Pastor for this forthcoming Marriage. This visitor will be expected to discuss the vocation of Marriage, plan the wedding celebration with you, and assist at the wedding rehearsal. It is still necessary for you to meet with our Pastor who will assist with the wedding documents.

Setting the Date and Time

You may discuss the availability of a wedding date and time after your initial meeting with the Pastor. In a case where there is visiting clergy, the wedding date will be recorded after the visiting priest speaks with the Pastor. To allow ample time for the celebration of your wedding ceremony, it is important that it be planned around regularly scheduled Parish liturgies. Weddings may take place on any day of the week. On Saturdays, weddings may take place between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. On Sundays, weddings may begin between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. When the date is set, please schedule your rehearsal time as well, to avoid conflicts with additional church events. It is most important that you be punctual for the wedding and rehearsal.

Marriage Preparation Programs

As Marriage is a lifelong commitment, we ask that you participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. These programs are meant to give you the opportunity to reflect on the important issues relating to Marriage and the unique aspects of your own relationship. Possible program options will be discussed at your first meeting with the Priest.

Documentation

A current copy of your Baptismal records should be sent from the place of Baptism to St. John Parish to the attention of Fr. Powers. Other Church documents may be requested. All documents should be sent as soon as possible. You must contact your local town or city hall to obtain marriage license information. Remember to bring your marriage license to the wedding rehearsal!

Contact our Music Director

Once you have confirmed your wedding date, please contact Laurence Carson, Parish Music Director, via email at laurence.carson@stjohnwellesley.org or by phone at 781-235-0034 to make plans for your music and to reserve the services of other musicians. Please be prepared to make all music selections at this meeting.

Other Customs

If you wish to integrate special cultural customs within your ceremony please discuss this during your meetings with the Priest witnessing the ceremony. Please note that the “unity candle” is not part of the religious rite. If you do wish to incorporate the lighting of a “unity candle,” be sure to discuss this with the Priest and Music Director. You must provide your own candles for lighting.

LITURGY PLANNING

The Readings and Structure of the Wedding

Your wedding may take place as either a Nuptial Mass or a ceremony. Please review the literature you have been given (e.g., *Together for Life*) to guide you in selecting readings and responses for the celebration. Any questions you may have regarding the ceremony are welcome and should be directed to the Priest who is witnessing your Marriage.

Music for the Wedding Mass or Ceremony

Music enhances the sacred nature of your marriage. Our Parish Music Director and Cantor will provide music that will enhance this celebration and encourage the full participation of the congregation in the hymns, psalm, responses, and acclamations of the wedding. Our Music Director will assist you in selecting music that will be both appropriate for the religious service and centered on the praise of God and, at the same time, encourage your guests' participation.

The recommended minimum number of musicians for your wedding (Mass or ceremony) is two: the organist and cantor. The cantor has a crucial role in leading and sustaining the people in the singing of hymns, responsorial psalms and acclamations. The cantor may also act as a soloist by singing at certain times within the liturgy, e.g. at offertory or during communion. The musical demands of a Catholic wedding are quite complex, requiring considerable training and experience to be done well. If a family member or friend is being considered to sing at your wedding, he/she may sing one or two pieces during, or prior to, the liturgy and only after prior consultation and approval from the Music Director. The parish allows only properly trained cantors to take an active role in leading the music at the liturgy.

Our magnificent Casavant pipe organ at St. John's can provide beautiful music for your wedding. We also have a very fine Steinway grand piano that can be used. However, there are times when they are enhanced by the optional presence of additional musicians, e.g. trumpet, flute, violin, cello, harp, saxophone. If you wish to investigate this option, please consult with the Music Director as he has a list of recommended instrumentalists with whom he performs regularly. In so doing you will be assured of a superior musical experience at your wedding. The stipend for instrumentalists is your responsibility. If extra rehearsal time is required with musicians new to us, an additional fee may be required.

If you are planning to provide your guests with a printed program at your wedding, please be certain to have all music chosen and approved no later than one month prior to your wedding.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Fees

Fees for the church offering, Music Director, and all other musicians should be delivered to the Parish Business Office in the Rectory no later than one week prior to the wedding.

The fees are as follow:

Church offering	\$200
Music Director	\$275 (includes one consultation and the ceremony itself)
Parish Cantor	\$150

Any fees for additional musicians and/or extra rehearsals will be as arranged through the Music Director.

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal will be conducted by the Priest. All attendants, readers, gift bearers and parents are encouraged to attend the rehearsal so that every aspect of the ceremony may be reviewed. The allotted time for a rehearsal is limited, so please be prompt!

Photographers/Videographers

To uphold the sense of the sacred, we ask that your photographer or videographer familiarize her/himself with the actual ceremony and be as unobtrusive as possible. We ask that they not enter the sanctuary area. We also discourage picture taking *after* the ceremony as this may interfere with other Parish events. The photographer should introduce her/himself to the celebrant before the wedding.

Receiving Lines

If time permits, receiving lines may be held outside the church. Please speak with the Parish Priest in advance to obtain approval.

Respect for Church Property

Neither flowers, confetti, birdseed nor rice may be thrown outside the church. These present serious safety hazards. It is important to note that alcoholic beverages (including champagne) are prohibited from the church property and parking lot. Please relay this information to limousine drivers and well-meaning family and friends!

Church Decorations

Your florist or family may decorate the church with fresh flowers keeping in mind the importance of maintaining the liturgical environment. All flowers placed at the altar are to remain after the ceremony so that the entire worshipping community may share them and continue to pray for you as we come together to celebrate the Eucharist.

Please provide your own containers and stands for your flowers. Please do not use tape, wire, tacks or other adhesives to attach ribbons, bows or floral decorations as these damage the wood surfaces. Candles may not be used directly in any arrangements.

Please call the Parish Business Office to arrange a time to have flowers delivered to the church. All additional flowers, such as corsages or boutonnieres, should be clearly marked with the family name and time of wedding. Neither flowers nor flower petals may be strewn inside or outside the church.

The use of a runner has proved to be a safety hazard and is discouraged.

All decorations outside the sanctuary must be removed immediately after the ceremony.

Church Interior and Parking

The church can hold up to 620 people and is handicap accessible with ground floor elevator access at the Glen Road and Ledyard Street entries. Rest rooms are located on the lower level.

The center aisle of the church is 51 feet from the glass doors to the first step of the altar. The distance from the outside center entrance to the glass doors is 29 feet. There are thirteen pews on either side of the center aisle.

Guests should park in the school lot on Ledyard Street.

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All of us at St. John's extend our best wishes to you and hope that these guidelines will be helpful to you as you prepare for this very special occasion.

St. John the Evangelist Church

(corner of Washington Street and Glen Road)

Parish Business Office
9 Glen Road
Wellesley, MA 02481

General Information: 781-235-0045
st-johns@comcast.net

Music Office: 781-235-0034
Laurence.Carson@stjohnwellesley.org