

Wedding Services



This packet has all the information to help you for your Wedding planning at Our Lady of Lourdes

This packet contains:

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- Helpful Information
- Documents Required
- Special Situations
- The Catholic Nuptial Mass Liturgy Guide
- Catholic Wedding Ceremony (NO MASS) Liturgy Guide
- Catholic Weddings Symbols & Significance
- Guidelines for non-Christians and non-Catholics
- Letter from J.C. Laws - Music Director/Liturgy Coordinator/Wedding Coordinator
- Instruction sheet for Meeting with J. C. Laws





A Message from the Pastor

Congratulations on Your Engagement

This is a special time in your lives. You have found someone you love and someone who loves you. You are looking forward to a whole life of love together. Your marriage means a great deal to you, and your marriage is important to God.

In asking to be married in the Catholic Church, you are seeking a particular sort of marriage in a particular spirit. You are promising to share in Christ's vision of marriage which is "for better, for worse for richer, for poorer until death do us part." This vision calls for continued growth and adjustment in both marriage partners. It is a vision, which calls you to be faithful both to the person to whom you vow on your wedding day, and to the person your spouse becomes as he or she grows and changes on the journey of life. This vision calls you to be open to the transmission of life through your future children and through the ways in which you nurture a healthy life in Church and society.

Such a marriage is both a joy and a challenge. It needs the strength of faith and support of the Church community. At Our Lady of Lourdes, we help you prepare for more than just a wedding ceremony. We help you prepare for marriage.

Research indicates that couples who prepare for marriage in a Church setting have a significantly lower marriage break-up rate in the first five years of marriage than the national average (*Williams, 1991*).

In our marriage preparation you enter a process that can:

- Help you feel more secure in your role as wife or husband.
- Help you avoid common pitfalls that could interfere with your future happiness.
- Help you resolve conflicts and keep small problems from becoming major ones.
- Help you create a marriage lifestyle that is satisfying and healthy.

My prayers are with you as you begin this next step in your life's journey.

Sincerely yours,

Msgr. James P. Lisante



Helpful Information

PREPARATION PERIOD: It takes about 12 months to adequately complete the preparation steps and to ensure availability of the date preferred.

RESERVATION OF WEDDING DATE: The date and time of the wedding can only be set on the church calendar during the first meeting between one of the clergy and both parties to the marriage. This meeting should take place before any other arrangements are made. One party of the marriage must be a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

WEDDING CEREMONIES CAN BE SCHEDULED ON:

WEEKDAYS: Anytime After 1:00pm

WEEKENDS: Saturday 1:00pm and 3:00 pm.

Sunday at 3:30pm, 4:30 on Baptism Sundays (*the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month*)

ALL LITURGIES BEGIN ON TIME: The Church will be open 1 Hour before you wedding. If you are using a florist, videographer, photographer etc. please alert them that this is the earliest they may arrive.

WITH OR WITHOUT MASS: Is a Nuptial Mass possible? Yes, only on Friday or Saturday. Not on Sunday Before making your final decision to have a Mass, please consider the faith of both families and wedding guests. If they are not familiar with the Mass responses or are not church going Catholics, it may be more appropriate to have the wedding without a Mass. Please review this matter at your first meeting with the priest and with the liturgy coordinator.

SEASONS: Lent and Advent are seasons that have a special religious character. This will require sensitivity in choosing decorations. Adjustments are called for given that purple and magenta are the liturgical colors and there are special seasonal hymns used.

WEDDING REHEARSALS are usually held on Thursday, Friday or another day during the week of your wedding, beginning by 7:00pm and ending by 8:00pm during the week of the wedding or at another time by appointment. The Wedding Coordinator will lead your rehearsal. Rehearsals begin on time and last approximately 45 minutes.

***The use of a runner for the center aisle is strictly forbidden due to safety. If using a Limousine or transportation company, please convey this to them.*



Documents Required

- 1. NEW BAPTISM CERTIFICATE:** The parish of your baptism will be happy to provide you with a copy of your baptism certificate dated no earlier than 6 months before your marriage. Old (*original*) certificates cannot be used. Ask for notations of Confirmation, and if possible, First Communion. For a person baptized in another Christian denomination, an original or photocopy of the original baptismal certificate is sufficient.
- 2. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF MARRIAGE EDUCATION:** Proof of completion of the entire marriage education program is required. You will receive the document after you have completed your marriage education program.
- 3. MARRIAGE LICENSE:** Couples seeking a marriage license in the State of New York can apply at any ***town clerks office or city clerk's office*** in the state. Both applicants must apply in person. A New York License is required and is valid only for this state. The license is valid for sixty (60) days. Wedding cannot be performed within twenty-four (24) hours of the license being issued. Bring the license to your wedding rehearsal.

Look for your Town Clerk



Hempstead Town Hall
One Washington Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 489-5000

<http://townofhempstead.org>

<http://townofhempstead.org/content/tc/marriage.html>



Oyster Bay Town Hall East
54 Audrey Avenue,
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 624-6335

Oyster Bay Town Hall South
977 Hicksville Road,
Massapequa, NY 11758
(516) 624-6335

<http://oysterbaytown.com>



Babylon Town Hall
200 East Sunrise Highway
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
(631) 957-3000

<http://ny-babylon.civicplus.com/FAQ.aspx?TID=66>



Special Situations

Requiring special attention and pastoral care

1. SECOND MARRIAGE COUPLES: If a previous marriage existed, the following documents are required:

- An authentic certificate of proof of death of spouse
- An official declaration of nullity from the proper Catholic Marriage Tribunal

NO DATE FOR MARRIAGE CAN BE SET UNTIL FREEDOM TO MARRY HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED

2. AGE: In the Diocese of Rockville Centre the parties must be at least 19 years old at the time of marriage. After the couple's first meeting with the parish priest, diocesan procedure calls for an evaluation of the couple arranged through Catholic Charities.* This procedure is coordinated by the Chancellor's office. No date is set for the wedding until final approval is given through the Chancellor's office.

- *For those couples where at least one of the parties is under the age of 19.*

3. PREGNANCY: After the couple's first meeting with the parish priest, diocesan procedure calls for a similar intervention as above. In both situations (*Age & Pregnancy*) the parish clergy offers the church's pastoral care and resources directly and personally to the couple and their parents. The primary concern of this process is to help the couple make a good decision regarding marriage and to assist them with the best preparation available for their future life as a married couple.

4. INTER-RELIGIOUS & INTER-FAITH MARRIAGES:

- The Catholic party's declaration and promise must be completed.
- The Diocesan Bishop where the Catholic party resides must grant permission for the mixed marriage
- For a non-Catholic ceremony to contract marriage, permission must be granted by the Bishop.
- **AFFIDAVITS of FREEDOM TO MARRY:** A copy for each party will be provided by the Priest at your first meeting. When completed, these documents substantiate that you were never married before. Each of you must ask two people who know you very well to sign these documents (*for example: your parents*). These affidavits replace the announcement of Wedding Banns.



The Catholic Nuptial Mass

The Gathering and Entrance Rite

- Prelude Music
- Entrance Rite: Entrance of Priest, Groom and Groomsman
- Processional Music for Bridesmaids & Bride
- Greeting, Penitential Rite & Collect: SAID BY PRIEST

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading (*can be read by a Catholic family member*)
- Responsorial Psalm (*Musical Selection*)
- Second Reading (**optional reading* can be read by a Catholic family member*)
- Gospel Acclamation (*Musical Selection*)
- Gospel Reading (*proclaimed by Deacon or Priest*)
- Homily (*Given by Priest*)

The Rite of Marriage

- Questions- asked by Priest of the couple,
- Exchange of Wedding Vows
- Blessing of Rings
- Exchange of Rings
- Universal Prayer & Prayer of the Faithful SAID BY PRIEST or Catholic person selected by couple
- Unity Candle or Presentation of Flowers to Blessed Virgin Mary (**Optional* (musical selection)*)

The Liturgy of Eucharist

- Preparation of the Altar & Presentation of Gifts (*Musical selection*)
- Eucharistic Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer (*Our Father*)
- Nuptial Blessing
- Lamb of God
- Communion Rite
 - Communion Hymn (*Musical selection*)

The Concluding Rite

- Final Blessing & Dismissal SAID BY PRIEST
- Introduction of Couple SAID BY PRIEST
- Recessional (*Instrumental selection*)



Catholic Wedding Outside Mass

Ceremony

Entrance Rite

- Prelude Music
- Entrance Rite: Entrance of Priest, Groom and Groomsmen
- Processional Music for Bridesmaids & Bride
- Greeting, Penitential Rite & Collect: SAID BY PRIEST

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading (*can be read by a Catholic family member*)
- Responsorial Psalm (*Musical Selection*)
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- Universal Prayer & Prayer of the Faithful SAID BY PRIEST or Catholic person selected by couple
- Unity Candle or Presentation of Flowers to Blessed Virgin Mary (**Optional*) (*musical selection*)
- Nuptial Blessing SAID BY PRIEST
- Lords Prayer

The Concluding Rite

- Final Blessing & Dismissal SAID BY PREIST
- Introduction of Couple SAID BY PRIEST
- Recessional (*Instrumental selection*)



Catholic Weddings Symbols and Significance

As you join in marriage, you become a symbol of the marriage between God and the human soul. Though your life together will have its ups and downs, you remain always faithful to each other as God remains always faithful to those who love him, and nourishing one another as God nourishes those who follow him.

Holy Water

The holy water font is a large bowl near the door of the church containing a quantity of water. The water has been blessed and prayed over and is the water used in baptisms. When we enter and leave the church, we touch our fingers to the water and perform a sign of the cross: touching forehead, chest, left and right shoulder, a silent way of saying “I pray for blessing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” This is also a renewal of our baptismal promises. We invite all Christians who enter the church to pray this prayer with us.

The Wedding Rings

The rings symbolize the eternal bond of marriage. Gold represents incorruptibility. They’re also the first gifts to each other as husband and wife, and you should always wear them as an outward sign to the world that you are joined. Wedding rings also symbolize love and fidelity for the marrying couple. The ring’s roundness is said to represent the eternal love they have for each other. The wedding band is being worn at the left ring finger as it was believed that it contained a special vein that was connected directly to the heart, and therefore this became the official finger for the wedding band.

The Unity Candle

Although this practice is a lovely expression of unity, it does not have its origin in the traditions of the Catholic Faith. Unification ceremonies of this type first started appearing about ten years ago in non-religious weddings as a way of expressing unity of the couple. It can signify the joining of their families and also be used as a way to include children from previous marriages.

Candles always symbolize the Light of Christ. The same light you received at Baptism and you now receive again to lead them in their new life as a couple. The candles represent the light that they will need to guide them throughout the rest of their married life. The candles also express the silent promise that the couple will continue to be light and warmth to each other for life.

The Unity candle is a large candle flanked by two smaller ones which can represent the joining of two people in marriage. This metaphorical ceremony is common to many faiths including Catholicism. You can purchase a unity candle with stand and it may be used at your wedding ceremony.

Devotion to The Blessed Virgin Mary - (*Traditionally a Bouquet of Flowers*)

Mary, the mother of Jesus is the ultimate role model for the Catholic bride, as she will strive to mirror Mary’s perfect love for God and devotion to her family. Brides often wish to seek the guidance and blessings of The Lord, through a ceremony that requests the intercession (*to request on your behalf*) of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through prayer and the laying of flowers at her Statue.



Guidelines for non-Christians and non-Catholics

Welcome! As a non-Catholic or non-Christian visitor, we expect that you show proper respect without compromising any of your own beliefs.

Rule Number One: Do not say anything or do anything that you feel goes against your own beliefs. Nobody expects non-Christians to join in praying the Lord's Prayer or reciting the Nicene Creed. If it doesn't bother you to do so, you can stand when we stand and sit when we sit and kneel when we kneel. But if this isn't your style, nobody will stare at you or think you disrespectful if you choose to remain seated throughout the ceremony. Standing and kneeling are things that we do specifically to show our respect for particular parts of the Mass. For example, during the reading of the Gospel we will stand, and in the presence of the Eucharist we will kneel. Regardless of your beliefs, you may choose whether or not to participate.

One of the beliefs we hold dear is that all people form one community and share a common destiny in one God, who has many names. Please don't feel that you need to join us in reciting prayers that hold no meaning for you, or that go contrary to your beliefs. We do ask for your thoughts or prayers as we begin our marriage. We ask Christians to participate in the Liturgy of the Word and to stand during the reading of the Gospel as a sign of respect. We also ask you to consider carefully whether it would be appropriate for you to receive Communion with us.

For Catholics, the Holy Eucharist, or Communion, is the highest form of worship, the "source and summit of the Christian life." It has many names and many meanings in Catholic tradition. It is the richest, most meaningful part of the Catholic service. Catholics, along with the Orthodox churches and a few Protestant churches, believe that, during Mass, the bread and wine given for the meal actually become the body and blood of Jesus Christ (*1 Cor 11:23-29*). We know that the physical makeup of the stuff doesn't change--the same molecules are all there--but as Christians we believe that everything has an eternal, spiritual component which is more real than its physical appearances, and it is this spiritual component which changes. Historically at Catholic masses, the Eucharist is offered, in general, only to those who are Catholics and who understand and believe in the "nature" of the Sacrament. Even Catholics have been compelled to abstain from the Eucharist if they are in a state of unrepented, unconfessed sin, or if they have not observed a one-hour fast prior to the Mass.

Some modern theologians argue, however, that the Eucharist is not so much a reward for meeting certain criteria as it is that which binds us in God's love, and a wonderfully unique way of experiencing that love. In other words, while accepting the Eucharist is both a cause of unity and a sign of unity with God, it is also a public demonstration of faith in the true existence of the body and blood of Christ in what were formerly bread and wine. However, since there are no Catholic ID cards, if a non-Catholic or non-Christian approaches the minister and asks for Communion, it will never be refused.

In a way, it's like a wedding: Couples only seek to be married in a Church if they subscribe to that Church's beliefs and seek God's presence in the marriage through the Church's ceremony. In a similar way, people who seek Communion seek the spiritual nourishment that is embodied in the Eucharist. Follow your conscience in determining whether you should ask for Communion. Nobody will stare at you, think you are being disrespectful, or wonder what's wrong if you choose simply to remain in your seat while others take Communion.

As an alternative way of participating in the Eucharistic ceremony, some people choose to approach the priest for a blessing. We encourage you to ask for a blessing if you would like to participate. Indicate your intention to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in an "X" over your chest; the priest will then know to give you a blessing instead of the bread or wine.



Music at your Wedding

J. C. Laws - Director of Music & Liturgy Coordinator
(516) 306-4863 • OLLMPMusic@gmail.com

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. It is my pleasure to begin working with you as you plan one of the most important days in your life. As soon as you can, please contact me at the above number, to set up our meeting, and your rehearsal date. I will also be the person who runs your wedding rehearsal, and probably your liaison to the priests and the church. I am here to make your wedding celebration a memorable and sacred experience. When we meet, we will go through everything for your wedding at the church. All choices of music, readings, people participating in the ceremony, and the procession of the bridal party.

Music is an integral part of a Wedding Ceremony or Nuptial Mass. Planning of quality liturgical music will make your wedding the most beautiful expression of your love that can be given to those who are present. Any music you would like can be discussed but since you have chosen to exchange your vows in a Catholic church, appropriate liturgical music **MUST** be chosen. Music appropriate for your reception should be left for your reception. If you would like to have any additional music; like trumpeters, string quartets or special soloists etc, please let me know and I will arrange everything. Some of these special requests might incur additional costs. Any questions you have will be answered at our meeting.

I look forward to making your day a very special and prayerful expression of your love for one another.

In His forgiveness & Love,

J. C. Laws



Instruction sheet for your meeting with

J. C. Laws - Director of Music & Liturgy Coordinator
(516) 306-4863 • OLLMPMusic@gmail.com

Please choose the following from your *Together for Life* booklet

Section B – 1st Reading

Section C – Responsorial Psalm

Section D – 2nd Reading

Section E – Gospel Acclamation

Section J - Prayer of Faithful

(you can include a list of deceased family members in this prayer, please have with you)

Order of Bridal Party Procession

Music Choices

Please consider the following *(they are not required)*:

- Catholic family members or friends to do the 1st reading, 2nd reading, and prayer of the faithful
- Catholic family members or friends to bring up the gifts *(if you are having a Mass)*
- If you are choosing to do a Unity candle or Flowers to the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- If you would like Extra Musicians at an extra cost

(my recommendation is to have a string ensemble for an extra \$600)