

OF THE ANNUNCIATION



WEDDING PAMPHLET

**4 Herbert Street
Melrose, MA 02176
(781) 665-0152**

ST. MARY

With great joy, we anticipate with you the day of your wedding and your life together in marriage. We provide this pamphlet to assist in your preparation and answer some questions you may have. We find that through an informed understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage,

our ritual prayer and sacred music become a means of expressing that understanding.

The Sacrament of Marriage is primarily a sacrament of unity. As the couple is united with one another, both physically and spiritually, they are united in the Divine love of Jesus Christ for His Church. Marriage is not only a personal, intimate encounter between a husband and wife, it is also a true act of worship involving the community of St. Mary's Parish.

Ritual prayer, or what we call our Sacred Liturgy, is a way to help us express both our deep, spiritual desires and our human longing to be united with one another. Because of this, some ritual actions or music are found appropriate and others are not. Our goal is to use the liturgy to lift our minds and hearts in worship of God. A wedding ceremony can take place either in the context of a Mass or outside a Mass. What is best for each couple can be discussed with the priest. Together they can choose the prayers, readings from the Sacred Scriptures, and solemn vows of commitment for the celebration of their marriage.

Music has a unique effect on the human heart. It can penetrate deep in the soul and touch our emotions. It can lift our hearts and express things that we find difficult to say with words. In our liturgy, we distinguish between sacred music and secular music. We only use sacred music because it is created from Sacred Scripture and our Catholic faith. It is an integral part of ritual worship and is unique in its ability to lift the heart and mind to God. Our music director will determine whether your selected music is sacred and appropriate.

We at St. Mary Parish hope you find this pamphlet helpful and invite you to join us each Sunday at the Liturgy of the Eucharist so that we can deepen our union with one another and with God.

Father Shawn Allen

DAY OF REHEARSAL

- Please bring the following items to the rehearsal and give them to the wedding coordinator:
 1. List of wedding party in order

2. State Marriage License
3. Selection form for readings and vows from ***TOGETHER FOR LIFE*** booklet
4. Fees - as noted below.

List of Fees

- St. Mary's Church \$200
- Music Director \$200
- Leader of Song \$150
- Please write **one check payable to \$550**
Saint Mary Parish
- Instrumentalists (if using) \$150 (each)
- Wedding Coordinator \$100 cash or
check payable directly to Coordinator
(assigned)
- Altar Servers (two) if ceremony is celebrated
within a Mass \$ 10 each

IV. WEDDING REHEARSAL

Wedding Rehearsal Coordinator

- Phyllis Cerys is the Wedding Rehearsal Coordinator here at St. Mary's Parish. She is available at the rehearsal as well as the Wedding Ceremony to oversee the processions and other details.

- Each engaged couple should contact Phyllis (617) 872-1049 or email her at phyllis@cerys.org at least 3 months before the wedding to arrange for the rehearsal date.
- Two altar servers will be present at the time of the wedding to assist the priest during the ceremony (only if wedding ceremony is celebrated within a Mass).

Church Decor

- Flowers, bows, etc. to decorate the church can be arranged with any local florist.
- There are 18 pews on each side of the church.
- The center aisle at St. Mary's Church is 66 feet long. We discourage the use of aisle runners.
- We ask each couple to respect our policy of no rice, flower petals, birdseed, etc. to be thrown inside or outside of the church.

Photography

- As befitting to prayer and worship, we ask each couple to communicate to the photographer and videographer our request that they be discreet and unobtrusive.
- Guidelines for appropriate place and timing of photography can be received from our Wedding Coordinator.

I. PRELIMINARY MEETINGS

1. Days and Times of Wedding

Friday	5:30 pm
Saturday	11:00am to 2:00 pm, and 5:30 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm or 2:00 pm

Please note that if the wedding party arrives more than twenty minutes late, the priest, at his discretion, can choose to celebrate a ceremony rather than a Mass.

2. Documents

- Information sheets. These papers are filled out during your meeting with the priest and contain biographical and familial information regarding the couple. These papers help to establish a couple's freedom to marry in the Church.
- A recent copy of each person's Baptismal record. If either person was baptized in a church other than St. Mary Parish, Melrose, please call the parish where the Baptism took place. Ask them to mail a baptismal certificate, the long form, directly to the designated priest officiating at your wedding.
- A copy of each person's Confirmation record.
- A Massachusetts marriage license. A license can be obtained at a city or town hall thirty to sixty days prior to the wedding day.

3. Wedding Ceremony planning

- Together with the priest, the couple can choose selections for prayers, scripture readings, and the exchange of vows.
- A booklet entitled *TOGETHER FOR LIFE* is provided for you with sample readings. Please -- fill out the Selection form and bring it to the rehearsal.

Please note that the Responsorial Psalm is usually sung and may be selected when planning the music with our music director.

4. Visiting clergy

- Visiting clergy are welcome to officiate at a wedding at St. Mary's. However, if the visiting priest or deacon is presently assigned outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he must get permission from the office of the Secretary of State at the State House in Boston.

II. MARRIAGE PREPARATION

In preparing for marriage, couples are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance and to complete a Marriage Preparation program.

1. Sacrament of Penance

- We encourage every couple to receive the Sacrament of Penance together as they prepare for marriage. Days and times are listed in the parish bulletin.

2. Marriage Preparation Programs

- These programs can be found at the website www.bostoncatholic.org under Marriage Ministries.

III. WEDDING MUSIC

1. Music Director

- St. Mary's is fortunate to have a professional Music Director who will help make your wedding music especially meaningful. Our Music Director, Paula Lowell, will assist you both in selecting music, and assigning an appropriate parish cantor (soloist). (Guest cantors are permitted at the Director's discretion, and must be familiar with the General Instructions of the Roman Missal in regards to liturgy and music.)

2. Planning Wedding Music

- Once you have established a time and date for your liturgy, please contact the Music Director directly either by phone or email or in person before or after any of our weekend liturgies. The Director will schedule a convenient time for you to come to the church for about an hour to listen to and select your music. This is one of the most enjoyable elements of wedding planning, so be ready to have fun with this! Any guests you wish to invite to the consultation are welcome, but out of courtesy and

respect, the Music Director will only take final directions and selections from the bride or groom.

3. Instruments

- St. Mary's is one of the most beautiful churches in the Archdiocese of Boston, with ideal acoustics for music. Likewise, St. Mary's is blessed to have extremely fine musical instruments. Our magnificent balcony pipe organ, built in 1894, is capable of filling the church with both thunder and perfume! In addition, we have a new Yamaha grand piano. Our tower contains a set of Schulmerich tower bells which will fill the neighborhood with music as you exit the church as a newly married couple! All these instruments will be used during your wedding ceremony. Should you desire any additional instruments (ie: trumpet, flute, violin, etc.), the Music Director will assist you in finding the finest players available at the most reasonable fees.