

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

All couples are asked to participate in a Marriage Preparation program. You can contact any Catholic Parish near you.

St. John's Parish will offer two sessions in 2026, one in the spring on **Sunday, May 3**, and one in the fall on **Sunday, November 8**. Please contact the Parish Office to register.

The Diocese of Fall River also offers sessions at other times and locations. You can register at:

www.fallriverfaithformation.org/marriage-preparation

There is also an online version of the Marriage Preparation available at

www.themarriagegroup.com for couples who prefer to complete it at their own pace from home.

Once completed, you will receive a certificate that should be given to the priest or deacon preparing your wedding.

PERSONALIZE YOUR WEDDING

You will receive the booklet, *Together for Life*, which contains readings and prayer options that you can select to personalize your wedding and include family and friends in this special day.

The selection sheet should be sent to the parish office the week prior to the wedding.

MUSIC

You should contact Alex Cuellar, Director of Music, at music@attleborocatholics.org once you set your date. The Director will help you plan for music for the wedding, including the possibility of other musicians or soloists, if desired.

OFFERING TO THE CHURCH

The customary donation for parishioners is \$350 and it includes a stipend for the wedding coordinator and altar server. The other fees for music and flowers are arranged separately by the couple.

REHEARSAL

The date and time of the rehearsal will be arranged usually at the initial meeting with the priest or deacon. Everyone who will be participate in the wedding should attend the rehearsal, e.g. readers, ushers, bridesmaids, etc. The wedding coordinator will direct the rehearsals and coordinate the procession the day of the wedding.

Before the rehearsal:

- Please be on time
- Give a copy of the reading to the readers
- Determine the order of procession you desire, e.g. bridesmaids, flower girl, etc.
- Decide who will seat the parents. etc.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Couples should prepare to celebrate their new beginning together by going to confession prior to the rehearsal. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will allow you to review your past as a single person and begin your married life with God's grace.

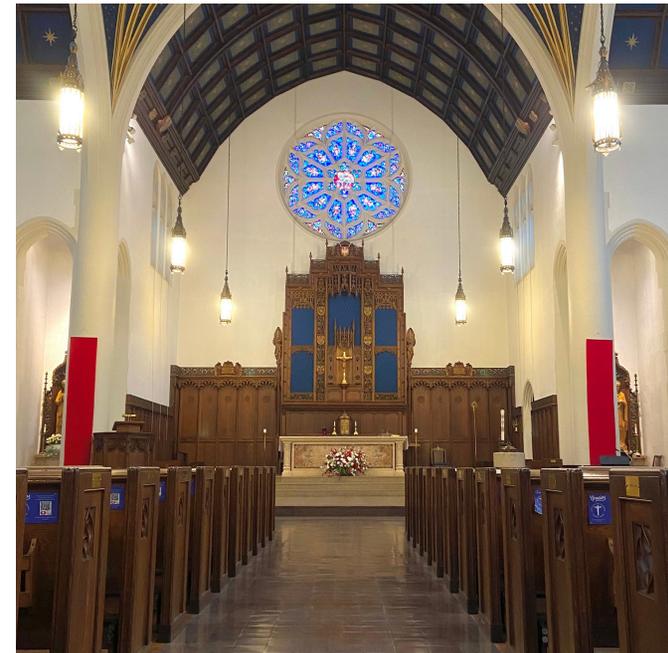
Please consult the parish bulletin for the Confession schedule or make an appointment with the priest.

Check list:

- Meet the priest or deacon to set wedding date & reserve the church
- Contact Music Director
- Complete FOCCUS Inventory Online
- Register for Marriage Preparation
- Send Baptism & Confirmation Certificates to Parish Office
- Schedule Wedding Rehearsal
- Complete Wedding Selection Sheet
- Apply for Marriage License
- Send Marriage License to the Parish Office



The Parish of St. John the Evangelist Welcomes you Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage



Parish Office

1 St. John's Pl
Attleboro, MA 02703

Church

133 North Main St.
Attleboro, MA 02703

Phone: (508) 222-1206

Email: office@attleborocatholics.org
Website: www.AttleboroCatholics.org

Dear Engaged Couples,

Congratulations on your plans to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage here at St. John the Evangelist Parish! We hope the following information will help you in the process of preparing for the special day.

Once you have made the decision to marry, you should call the parish office to arrange an appointment to talk to the priest or deacon and set a date for the wedding and begin to complete the documentation needed. The process includes completing a compatibility inventory called *FOCCUS* to prepare you for attending *Marriage Preparation*. In the meantime, you will gather certificates and meet with the priest or deacon as needed to complete the paperwork. Once done, you will attend the rehearsal, celebrate the wedding, and be off on your honeymoon! We are available to help you plan a beautiful wedding and prepare you for marriage.



WEDDING DAY & TIME

Most weddings are celebrated on Saturdays (*until 1:30 PM or after 5:30 PM*) or Sundays (*after 1:00 PM until 3:00 pm*). Other days are possible, as well. The priest or deacon preparing your wedding can help selecting the date and time for your wedding.

SACRAMENTAL CERTIFICATES

Catholics are asked to provide a recent (*within 6 months*) original certificate of Baptism and Confirmation. Baptized Christians are asked to provide a copy of their Baptism certificate.

WEDDING COORDINATION

Our parish Wedding Coordinator will direct the rehearsal and be present on the day of the wedding. If you have any questions, please contact Gina in the Parish Office.

FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

If you are selecting flowers to decorate the church, ask the florist to contact the parish office to schedule delivery time for the wedding day. You can decorate the pews with bows, flowers, etc., however kindly use clips, not tape, to hold them in place.

Traditionally, some wedding flowers remain in the church, with the exception of pew decorations, programs, etc., after the wedding.

Since the floor is stone, a white aisle runner should not be used. For cleanliness and safety please do not throw rice, bird seed, flower petals, confetti, etc., inside or outside the church. Animals should not be included in the church portion of the wedding.

The Parish has permanent flower arrangements available. Contact the Parish office for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOTAPING

Your photographer and/or videographer is welcome throughout the ceremony without interrupting the natural flow of the wedding. They may photograph from the choir loft, or any part of the nave of the church while not entering the Sanctuary selection (*past the altar rail*). The church and grounds are available for 30 minutes following the wedding for photographs. Any questions can be directed to the Wedding Coordinator or call the parish office.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The couple is required to provide a Marriage License prior to the wedding. You are both required to apply in person to the *City Clerk's Office* in any town or city hall in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The license is valid for sixty days. Please note: there is a 3-day waiting period before the license can be issued.

Once obtained, the license should be brought to the parish office before the rehearsal. *A wedding cannot be held if there is no Marriage License*. Following the wedding, the priest or deacon is responsible for completing it and returning it to the City Clerk's Office. After it is recorded there, you may contact the City Clerk for a certified copy. At the wedding you will receive a Marriage Certificate provided by the parish.

<https://www.cityofattleboro.us/1822/Applying-for-Marriage-License>

CONVALIDATION

If you are civilly married and are preparing for a "Blessing of the Marriage", you do not need a Marriage License; rather, you should provide a certified copy of your Marriage to the priest or deacon preparing your wedding.

VISITING CLERGY

If you are inviting a priest or deacon, who lives out-of-state, to perform the wedding, he must apply for a "commission" from the MA Secretary of State, Division of Public Records. You can contact them at (617) 727-2936.

In addition, any priest or deacon who is invited to participate in the wedding must provide a "Letter of Suitability" from the Diocese in which he serves. The letter must be sent to the parish office one month prior to the date of the wedding so it can be processed.