

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

All couples are asked to participate in a Marriage Preparation program.

St. John's Parish will offer two sessions in 2024, one in the spring on Sunday, May 5, and one in the fall on Sunday November 3. Please contact the Parish Office to register.

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

<https://www.fallriverfaithformation.org/marriage-preparation>

Once complete, 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 priest or deacon will provide you with the booklet. Selections are also on the parish website: <https://attleborocatholics.org/sacraments/marriage/planning-wedding>

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

## REHEARSAL

The date and time of the rehearsal will be arranged usually at the initial meeting with the priest or deacon.

Everyone who will 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.

For the rehearsal:

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

## 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.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Couples should prepare to celebrate their new beginning together by going to confession, or Reconciliation, 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. You may consider a visit to LaSalette Shrine for Confession, as well.



### Check list:

- ☐ Meet with priest or deacon to set wedding date & reserve the church
- ☐ Contact musician(s) to reserve date
- ☐ 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 License to the parish office



**The Parish of  
St. John the Evangelist  
welcomes you**

## Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage



Parish Office  
1 Saint John's Place  
Attleboro, MA 02703

Church  
133 North Main Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703

Phone: 508-222-1206  
Email: [Office@attleborocatholics.org](mailto:Office@attleborocatholics.org)  
Website: [www.AttleboroCatholics.org](http://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 1:30PM or after 5:30PM) 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 COORDINATOR**

Mary Robinson serves as the parish Wedding Coordinator and will direct the rehearsal and the wedding day. If you have any questions, you can contact Mary:

[MARobinson7@icloud.com](mailto:MARobinson7@icloud.com) or 774-454-0058

### **FLOWERS & DECORATIONS**

If you are selecting flowers to decorate the church, ask the florist to contact the parish office to schedule delivery time. You may decorate the pews with bows, flowers, etc., however kindly use clips, not tape, to hold them in place so as to not damage the wood finish on the benches.

Traditionally, some wedding flowers remain in the church, with the exception of pew decorations. Kindly have someone remove the pew bows, 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. Dogs, cats, doves, etc., should not be included in the church part of the wedding day.

### **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 section (*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.

### **MUSIC**

You should contact Sheryl Walsh, parish Director of Music, at 508-222-6383 as soon as you set your date. Sheryl will make arrangements to meet with you to discuss and plan your wedding music, including the possibility of other musicians or soloists.

### **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.

### **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 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.