

# MARRIAGE

Marriage is one of the most important sacramental steps in the lives of a couple, so the Roman Catholic Church has some guidelines to ensure proper preparation for this wonderful celebration. The sacrament of marriage may be bestowed upon those who have been fully instructed and who can enter into marriage in a mature and spiritual manner. Six months notice of your proposed wedding date is needed for marriage preparation.

## REQUIREMENTS

### Arrangements and Scheduling

Your first step towards getting married at St. Michael Parish is to speak to one of our priests to discuss your thoughts and plans, as well as a possible date for your wedding. Once you have decided on a date, the wedding fee should be paid within one month to lock it into place.

The priest will complete the Marriage Questionnaire during your meeting with him, and you will also each separately fill out a multiple-choice compatibility questionnaire, "Fully Engaged", which identifies important areas for discussion before beginning married life. Your answers are sent anonymously for processing, and the

priest will review the results with you in a follow-up meeting.

Before getting married, all couples need to complete a Church-approved preparation course, such as Pre-Cana. Such courses are offered at various locations throughout Vermont in the first part of the year. If you live outside Vermont, you may enroll in a course in your own state.

The priest will inform you what other documents he will need. If you are not local to St. Michael Parish, some or all of the paperwork may be done with a priest at your own parish.

If you wish to be married by a priest from another diocese, you may do all your paperwork with him. We must receive all paperwork and documents pertaining to your wedding at least two months in advance. Your priest will need to obtain permission from the Diocese of Burlington and authorization from the State of Vermont to officiate.

For logistical reasons, we are unable to schedule Saturday weddings beginning later than 2 p.m. It is very important that your ceremony begins on time, or it may have to be shortened.

### Music

Music at wedding ceremonies is always dignified and liturgical to enhance the solemnity of the sacrament into which the couple is entering. Secular songs, either sung or played, are not permitted.

The wedding fee does not cover our organist and director of music, Cathy Martin, for the wedding ceremony. If you would like to make arrangements with her, please feel free to call her at (802) 257-1751.

### Wedding Fee

The church fee is \$200 for non-parishioners or \$100 for parishioners. It should be paid within one month of booking. The check should be made out to St. Michael Parish. When there is a Mass, and altar servers are necessary, a \$20 donation to each altar server would be generous.

### Wedding Rehearsal

Very important! The couple must give their civil license to the priest at the wedding rehearsal.

We ask that only members of the wedding party or those with roles in the ceremony attend the wedding rehearsal.

## Wedding Ceremony

Children in the wedding party must be known to be well behaved and able to fulfill their roles in the wedding.

Flowers are the responsibility of the bride and groom. They may be placed in the nave and in front of the altar, but not on top of the altar.

Confetti, rice, flower petals, bird seed, etc., or alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the church or on church grounds.

It is helpful for the dignity of the ceremony if there is just one photographer and one videographer. These professionals are to check in with the priest beforehand.

## PRAYER FOR THE COUPLE

WE PRAISE YOU, LORD, FOR  
YOUR GENTLE PLAN DRAWS  
TOGETHER YOUR CHILDREN IN  
LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.  
STRENGTHEN THEIR HEARTS,  
SO THAT THEY WILL KEEP  
FAITH WITH EACH OTHER,  
PLEASE YOU IN ALL THINGS,  
AND SO COME TO THE  
HAPPINESS OF CELEBRATING  
THE SACRAMENT OF THEIR  
MARRIAGE.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH  
CHRIST, OUR LORD.

AMEN.

It is our sincere hope that this brochure answers the most important questions that arise. If you have any others, please call St. Michael Roman Catholic Parish at (802) 257-5101. May God bless you in this vocation of love.

## MARRIAGE GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

### ST. MICHAEL ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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A WEDDING IS A DAY.  
A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME.