

Director of Music

PLANNING YOUR MUSIC

As soon as your wedding is booked with the church, please contact the Director of Music to arrange for music at your wedding:

jennifer.blades@archbalt.org
410-744-6560 ext. 232

Once you establish contact with the director, a meeting will be scheduled with you to discuss the music selections you would like to have at your wedding.

SELECTING YOUR MUSICIANS

It is our policy that your wedding music is provided by the musicians and vocalists at St. Mark Church. Exceptions to this policy should be discussed with and obtained through the Director of Music.

Fees are due to all musicians (cantors, instrumentalists, organist) one month prior to the wedding. Checks should be made payable to the individual musician.

Everyone at St. Mark Parish is committed to helping to make your marriage ceremony a spiritual and meaningful celebration through music and prayer. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call the Director of Music.



Wedding Guideline

Booklet



St. Mark Catholic Church

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Catonsville, Maryland 21228
(410) 744-6560
stmarkchurch-catonsville.org

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The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.

-Code of Canon Law, Canon 1055

must be shown at all times. Thus, proper dress, attitudes, and actions are expected. The drinking of alcoholic beverages prior to the rehearsal and wedding is strongly discouraged, and the drinking of alcoholic beverages in or around St. Mark Church is strictly forbidden.

- The rehearsal allows the members of the wedding party to become familiar with the environment of our church building and with the roles they will assume in the liturgy. The celebrant and/or Wedding Coordinator will give a brief overview of the liturgy to help all concerned understand the prayerful nature of the celebration. You will do a “walk through” of the ceremony so that everyone will be familiar with it.
- All readings, prayers, music, etc. must be chosen prior to the rehearsal. The rehearsal is not the time for decision making.

Wedding Program

- A wedding program can greatly enhance the participation of those gathered for the celebration. It is suggested that you include the outline of the liturgy, the text for the music, and directions for sitting and standing. This is especially helpful for those who are not familiar with our Catholic worship.
- The program will encourage full participation in the liturgy and serve as a beautiful remembrance of your wedding.
- You are to finalize your choices of prayers and readings with the priest/deacon before they are printed in your program. All music must be finalized with the music director.
- A sample program is available for reference.

guidelines.

- Photographers and videographers are expected to keep movement around the church to a minimum during the liturgy so that the prayer of those gathered is not disturbed. Entering the sanctuary is strictly prohibited.
- Because flash photography can be distracting to the couple, priest, and those gathered, there is to be no flash photography after the entrance procession; flash may be used again only during the recessional.
- Pictures taken of the arrival of the bride and wedding party should not delay the beginning of the ceremony.
- The church will be available to you for the taking of photographs or videos both before and after the celebration, but the space must be respected. **Pictures following the ceremony should not exceed thirty minutes.**

Rehearsal

- As soon as your wedding is scheduled, it is required that the rehearsal day and time be approved to avoid possible conflicts.
- Please make every effort to ensure that all members of the wedding party (parents, ushers, attendants, lectors, etc.) are present for the rehearsal **and on time**. The wedding rehearsal is to begin promptly since the Church may have other scheduled activities or the priest and/or Wedding Coordinator may have other appointments. Please allow thirty minutes to one hour for the rehearsal.
- It is also requested that you remind the wedding party that since the wedding rehearsal is in the church, proper reverence

Wedding Contact Information

Wedding Coordinator:

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410-744-6560 ext. 224

Director of Music:

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Prayer of an Engaged Couple

Lord Jesus, to teach us to love one another, You became one of us, taking as a tabernacle the body of Mary. You said: “Be one in each other, even as I and the Father are one.” You have desired that [name] and I should live in You as with a single life, like two branches of a single vine, which Your providence has entwined. Let our love pass through You, that it may realize a perfect union, not only of our hearts but also of our souls, and that, growing from day to day, it may likewise increase our life in You. Help us to bring to our home enough beauty, health, thrift, strength, purity, and ideals, to make it a model of the new world we wish to build with You, and to give you priests, perhaps, but certainly apostles. With all this, let us never forget that it is through us that Your kingdom must be established—in factories, offices, shops, in all the places we frequent, in our streets and houses...on earth as in heaven. Have pity on all those youths and maidens whose hearts are wounded and whose dreams are broken. Guard the promises which have been made according to Your Spirit. And may Your blessing soon give us to each other forever. Amen.

Pre-Wedding Checklist

- Meet with the presiding priest or deacon for initial meeting. You will begin the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry at this time.
- Choose and confirm a wedding date and time, rehearsal date and time, and celebrant on the church calendar.
- Contact your Wedding Coordinator and set up initial meeting.
- Acquire bride and groom's current annotated Baptism Certificates and submit copies to the parish office.
- Receive permission from your parish to marry if not a member of St. Mark Parish.
- Contact the St. Mark Director of Music and set up an appointment to meet concerning music for your ceremony. Please do not hire musicians before this meeting.
- Complete parish "Wedding Information" forms and submit to the parish office not later than one month prior to the wedding.
- Participate in the Pre-Cana Wedding Preparation course and submit the certificate to the parish office not later than one month prior to the wedding.
- Request your marriage license.
- Bring your marriage license to the parish office no later than one week prior to the rehearsal.

"When a man marries, he gets the finest thing he will ever have – a wife to help and encourage him."

-Sirach 26:1

- Decorations should neither impede the approach to nor the circling of the altar or any of the ritual movements or actions.
- A copy of the guidelines will be provided for you to give to your florist; however, placement of all floral arrangements in the sanctuary is to be approved by your Wedding Coordinator.
- If flowers and bows are used to decorate the ends of the pews, please use string, ribbon, or rubber bands to secure them.
- We welcome any floral arrangement you may wish to leave in the Church as a gift to our community after the celebration of your wedding. Your flowers would continue to enhance our parish worship space.

UNITY CANDLES

Because the Unity Candle is not part of the Catholic Wedding Rite, **the use of a Unity Candle is strictly prohibited.**

USE OF RICE, BIRD SEED OR CONFETTI

To avoid a safety hazard, the throwing of rice, birdseed or confetti is not allowed.

Photography and Videotaping

It is understandable that you may desire to record your wedding celebration in order to preserve the memories for many years to come. However, to ensure the sacredness of the liturgy for all gathered, we ask that you, your photographer, and your videographer observe our parish guidelines. You should provide your photographer/videographer with copies of these guidelines. It is your responsibility that both the photographer and the videographer clearly understand and agree to adhere to these

procession with a cross, servers, presider, bridesmaids and groomsmen, and groom and bride (perhaps accompanied by their parents), would be commendable.

- **Is it permissible to use readings other than those in the *Together for Life* book?** Whether celebrated within or outside Mass, the readings must always be taken from Scripture. On those days when the Ritual is celebrated, the scriptural readings are to be selected from the *Together for Life* book.
- **May Couples write their own vows?** The *Together for Life* book offers two forms of Consent (vows) and two methods for saying them. No other forms for the Consent are permitted.
- **To whom may the Bride and Groom extend the Sign of Peace?** To those closest to them and their parents.

Environment

Flowers are symbolic of our joy in Christ and express our thankfulness for the beautiful gifts of nature God has given to us. Many couples choose flowers for the church because they enhance the spirit of celebration and hospitality. Our parish has developed guidelines to assist you in creating the most beautiful and appropriate liturgical environment for your wedding. You should provide your florist with a copy of these guidelines.

FLOWERS, PLANTS OR TREES

- Flowers, plants or trees are particularly apt for the decoration of liturgical space, since they are part of nature and always discreet in their message.

Wedding Fee Schedule

CHURCH

Please make check payable to “St. Mark Church.”

Parishioners	\$500.00
Non-Parishioners	\$800.00

Included: Building and utilities and marriage assistance with sacramental preparation.

ADDITIONAL FEES

These fees should be payed directly to the individual.

Wedding Coordinator:	\$100.00
Organist:	\$250.00
Cantor:	\$200.00

For trumpeters, string players, or harpists please check with the Director of Music.

Visiting Priest/Deacon Suggested Stipend:
\$150.00-\$200.00

The Marriage Preparation Process

To ensure that engaged couples have adequate time to prepare for the sacrament in a meaningful way, they must **contact the celebrant at least six months in advance of the wedding date** and conclude a formal preparation process two months prior to the wedding. *Nine months to one year is ideal.* This preparation time is not just a “waiting period” for the ceremony, but rather an important, formative process in preparation for the lifetime journey on which the couple is about to embark. The guidance is designed to help the engaged couple evaluate their readiness to

live married life, gain insights of themselves individually and as a couple, obtain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony, understand the mission of a married couple both in the Church and in society, and develop a greater appreciation of their faith. (13.6.10.2) Once the engaged couple has scheduled an appointment with the celebrant, marriage readiness will be assessed, a marriage preparation process will be determined, documents necessary for a Catholic wedding will be reviewed and assistance with planning the Liturgy for the celebration will be forthcoming. A thorough review of this booklet will familiarize the couple with the various guidelines established for weddings at St. Mark Catholic Church. Our Wedding Coordinator looks forward to guiding the engaged couple through this process.

Wedding Coordinator

The Wedding Coordinator for St. Mark Parish is the official designated representative of the parish and is familiar with current policies and procedures. She will assist the families in assuring the sacredness of the liturgy by consistent and proper application of current St. Mark Church and archdiocesan policies and procedures.

Wedding Ministries

THE ASSEMBLY

At the wedding liturgy, family and friends gather to celebrate and witness your wedding. Unless they are encouraged to participate, they will be an audience instead of participants. The focus of your wedding liturgy preparation is to encourage full and active participation of all.

presider for approval.

- The parish Wedding Coordinator may serve as an Extraordinary Minister for your wedding, if needed.

Wedding Attendants

BRIDESMAIDS AND GROOMSMEN

- It is the Church's requirement that you be married in the presence of a priest or deacon and two witnesses.
- It is understandable that you will want significant family members/friends to be bridesmaids and groomsmen. However, because of standing and seating arrangements, our parish recommends a maximum of six bridesmaids and six groomsmen. Please consider this when choosing your attendants. If more are needed, please discuss with the Wedding Coordinator.

RING BEARERS AND FLOWER GIRLS

Very young children are many times uneasy about walking in front of large numbers of people. When you are choosing a ring bearer and a flower girl, the children's ages should be considered so that their presence will add to and not detract from the joyful celebration. For this reason, children between **five and ten years of age** are recommended.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **May the father of the bride accompany her down the aisle?** Yes. Among the rich variety of customary forms experienced at weddings in this country, the option of a

readings are to be proclaimed by a Catholic (Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, June 8, 1993, para. 133).

- You may choose to write or give suggestions for specific intentions to be included in the general intercessions, but these **must be pre-approved by the presider**. For example, you may choose to pray for deceased relatives or sick friends/family members who are not able to attend. You may include a prayer for your godparents, parents, or others who have touched your lives. Needs of the world should also be included: for example, you may pray for the poor, the homeless and the unemployed.

THE ALTAR SERVERS

- If you have a friend or family member who is an Altar Server and would like to serve during your wedding, please inform the Wedding Coordinator.

GIFT BEARERS

- The gift bearers are two people who come forth from the assembly to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. This can be a special role for godparents or for other significant people in your lives.
- Ideally, you want to choose people who are not fulfilling any other ministry in the Mass.
- Some couples are choosing to have the gifts of bread and wine handed to them, and they hand them to the presider.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

- If there is a Eucharistic Minister in you family who you would like to serve in your wedding, please inform the

THE COUPLE

- The two of you are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic wedding liturgy. You give yourselves to one another in marriage. The priest or deacon serves as the Church's official witness.
- Since much focus will be on the two of you, if you enter into the prayers and songs, your invited friends and family will be more inclined to participate.
- It is not recommended that you take on another ministry during the liturgy, such as that of lector or Eucharistic Minister. These ministries are best served by others in the assembly.
- For brides, modesty should be a priority when choosing both your gown and the gowns of your attendants.

THE PRESIDERS

- A priest will preside or officiate at most wedding liturgies. When the wedding is celebrated without a Mass, a deacon may officiate.
- Priests or deacons from outside St. Mark Parish may preside at weddings with delegation from the pastor and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
- If you are marrying a non-Catholic and would like a non-Catholic minister to participate, please share your desire with the priest/deacon before extending the invitations. The presider will advise you in this matter. If planned in advance, it can be a beautiful and significant sign of the ecumenical dimension of your marriage.

THE WITNESSES

- Every member of the assembly at your wedding is important

because each one is a witness to your marriage.

- At the same time, three particular witnesses have a designated role in the liturgy. The Church's official witness is the priest or deacon. The best man and the maid/matron of honor are also witnesses. They need not be Catholic to fulfill this role.

THE USHERS

- More and more, this ministry is being referred to as the hospitality ministry, because this title gives a better understanding of the role of these ministers. The main responsibilities of the ushers are to greet those arriving at the church and to assist them in finding a seat.
- Ushers are not required and will not be provided by the parish. Please select members of your family or friends if you wish to include this ministry.
- Please encourage your ushers to seat your guests near others and to introduce them to each other. Inviting those gathering to sit toward the front is another sign of hospitality.
- If you have a printed pamphlet for your wedding, an usher may be asked to hand it to those gathering, or this can be another role for a friend or family member. As a sign of hospitality, "Welcome to (Couple's first names) wedding," may be said.
- Another gracious sign of hospitality as your family and friends arrive is to have greeters outside of church doors saying, "Welcome to St. Mark Church." At some weddings, the parents of the groom and/or bride choose to greet those gathering for the celebration in the vestibule. This is another option for you.
- If you have a friend/family member with special needs attending, please let the Wedding Coordinator know so that

special instructions may be given to an usher at your rehearsal.

- To avoid seating delays, it is recommended that you have at least one usher for every fifty guests. Since some family and friends will arrive early for your wedding, it is also recommended that your ushers arrive at the church at least 45 minutes before the ceremony begins.

THE LECTORS

- Much care should be given in choosing the lectors. These lectors should be able to proclaim the Word so that those gathered may clearly understand. It is not a ministry that should be assigned to people just because they are good friends or family members who need a part in your wedding. Choosing a Catholic to proclaim the readings is encouraged but not required.
- It is preferable that you have three lectors, one for the first reading, the second reading, and the prayers of the faithful. The text for the readings you have chosen should be given to your lectors as soon as possible so that they can practice.
- Lectors are encouraged to attend the rehearsal.
- It is important for female lectors to take great care in choosing clothing that is modest. Dresses and skirts should be "at" or just above the knee.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- These are prayers that are prayed for the needs of the world, the Church, our communities, and a variety of other needs. The person who will read the first or second reading may pray the prayers, or another person may be chosen. Normally, during a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church, the