

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding! The Church of the Little Flower extends a sincere welcome to you! We are privileged to be part of this sacramental occasion. We pray that the grace of God that has brought you to this point of engagement will continue to guide you through your preparations and each day of your married lives.

In our Catholic Christian faith, *“the Sacrament of Marriage signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love with which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life.”*

For this reason, weddings customarily take place in the sanctuary of a church in the presence of Christian witnesses and invited guests. We recognize matrimony as a sign of God's presence in this world, a sign made visible for all to see through the love, fidelity and commitment of two people of faith. In light of this, our Christian tradition celebrates matrimony as a solemn and sacred event. We hope that your marriage celebration will be blessed with God's grace and with all that you desire.



Call the Music Director/Wedding Coordinator:
Liz Mancinelli - (908- 464 -1585 x141)
to schedule a date and time for your wedding.

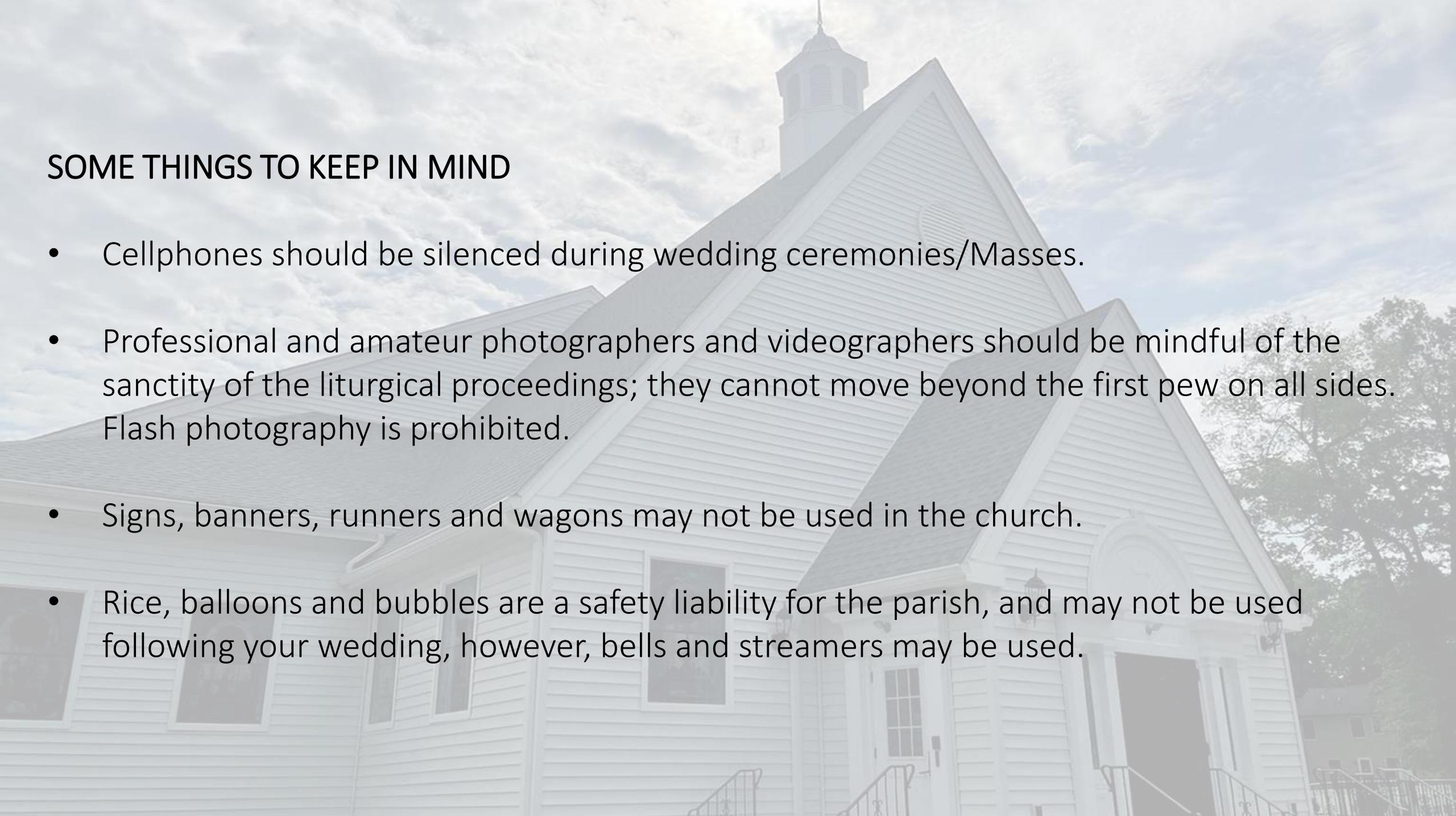
The Catholic Church in New Jersey asks that the wedding date be set at least one full year in advance so that all necessary requirements can be fulfilled. A priest or deacon from Little Flower will then meet with you, confirm your date and fill out some initial paperwork.

See the following if a Priest or Deacon from another parish or religious order will be visiting Little Flower to witness or participate in your ceremony:

1- *If your Catholic presider is from outside the parish but within the State of New Jersey*, he is responsible for requesting permission to marry you at Little Flower by contacting the pastor, Fr. Andrew Prachar at frandy.lf@gmail.com. He must submit a copy of the front and back of his "Suitability of Priestly Ministry" card. If a Little Flower priest is not involved in your ceremony, the presider will also be responsible for your marriage paperwork and preparation.

2 - If your Catholic presider is from outside the parish and from another state, he is responsible for requesting permission to marry you at Little Flower by contacting the pastor, Fr. Andrew Prachar at frandy.lf@gmail.com. He submit a copy of his proof of faculties and a letter stating that he is in "good standing" with his diocese. This letter should be received from their Diocesan Bishop or Provincial Superior addressed to the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Newark (171 Clifton Ave., PO Box 9500, Newark, NJ 07104 or fax to 973-497-4525). The letter must include the nature and duration of the visit.

If a Little Flower priest is not involved in your ceremony, the visiting presider will also be responsible for your marriage paperwork and preparation. * Priests are not able to preside at ceremonies taking place in venues outside of a Catholic church.



SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Cellphones should be silenced during wedding ceremonies/Masses.
- Professional and amateur photographers and videographers should be mindful of the sanctity of the liturgical proceedings; they cannot move beyond the first pew on all sides. Flash photography is prohibited.
- Signs, banners, runners and wagons may not be used in the church.
- Rice, balloons and bubbles are a safety liability for the parish, and may not be used following your wedding, however, bells and streamers may be used.

Offering

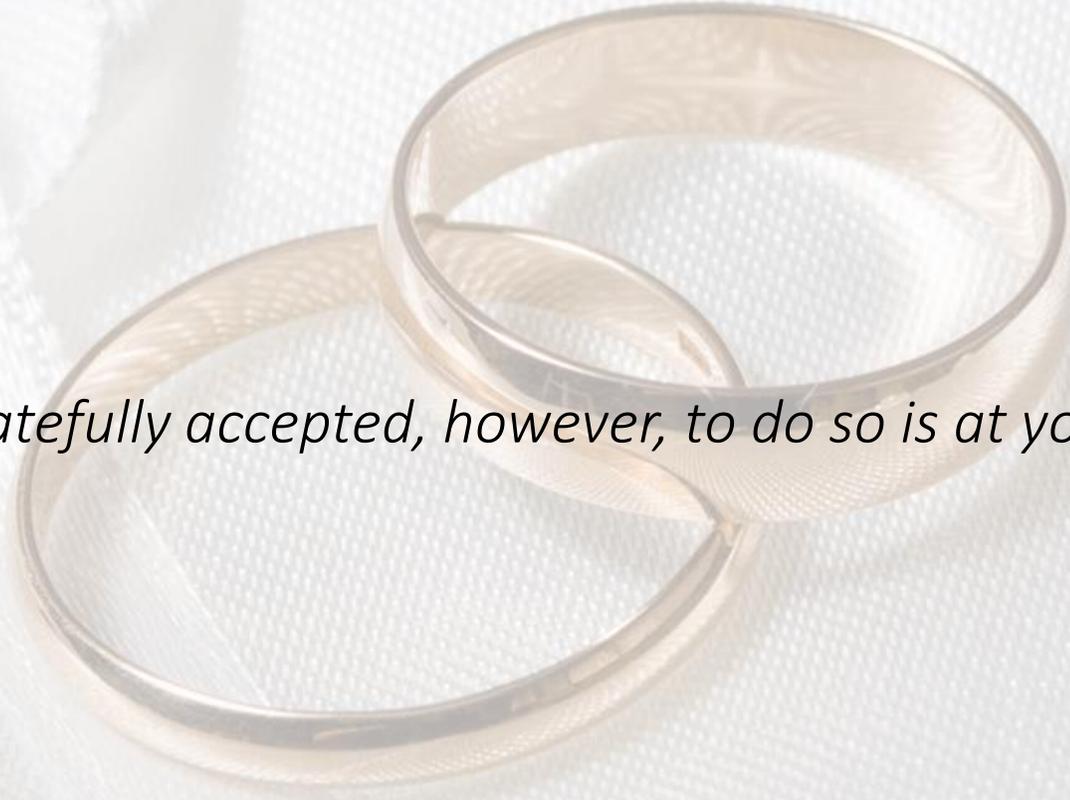
Church Fee - \$350 – payable to The Church of the Little Flower

Cantor - \$150 – payable to “Cash”

Accompanist - \$150 – payable to “Cash”

Sacristan - \$75 – to payable “Cash”

An honorarium for the presider is always gratefully accepted, however, to do so is at your discretion.

Two gold wedding rings are positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image. They are simple, plain bands with a fine, repeating pattern. One ring is slightly behind and to the right of the other, creating a sense of depth. The background is a soft-focus, light-colored fabric with a subtle texture and some bokeh light spots.

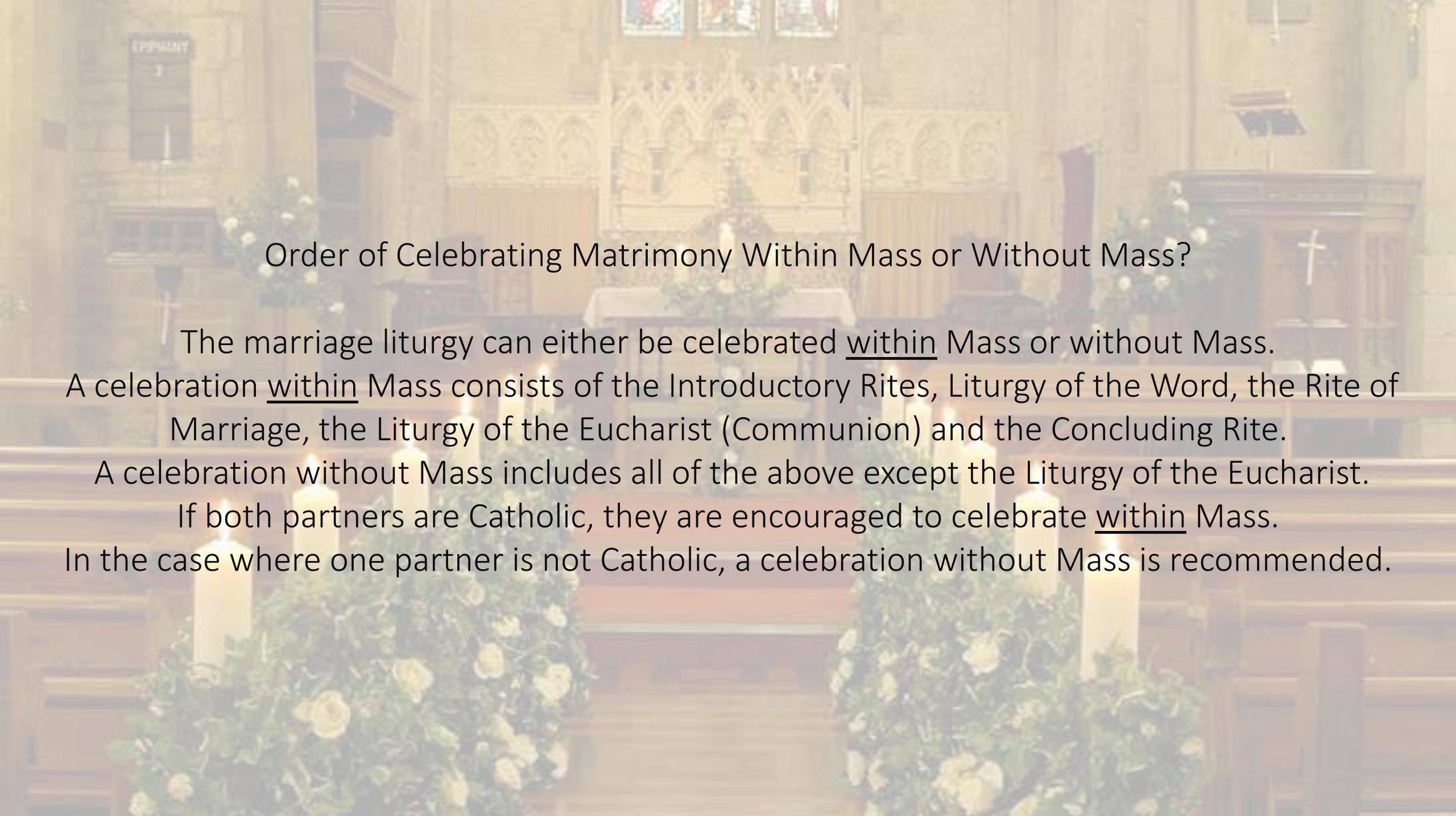
The following documents are required for every marriage:

Baptismal Certificate: Dated No earlier than six months prior to the wedding date, you and your fiancé must obtain a **new** certificate of baptism from the church of your baptism. (Be sure to tell the church contact person that you need the certificate for your upcoming marriage.) If you were baptized at Little Flower, your records are here.

As part of the instructional portion of the marriage preparation process, both you and your fiancé must participate in:

- **Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter** – register at <http://www.rcan.org/famlife/marriagefamily.htm>
- **God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage**
- **FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory**

License: The license is issued by the Municipal Clerk's office in any municipality in the State of New Jersey. It is valid for 30 days. There is a 72 hour waiting period from the time you apply to the time the license is actually issued. It is a good idea to apply no later than one week prior to your wedding date. You will need to have one witness who can testify for you at the time of your application. Be sure to bring the license to the rehearsal.



Order of Celebrating Matrimony Within Mass or Without Mass?

The marriage liturgy can either be celebrated within Mass or without Mass.

A celebration within Mass consists of the Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, the Rite of Marriage, the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Communion) and the Concluding Rite.

A celebration without Mass includes all of the above except the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

If both partners are Catholic, they are encouraged to celebrate within Mass.

In the case where one partner is not Catholic, a celebration without Mass is recommended.

Selection of Liturgical Texts

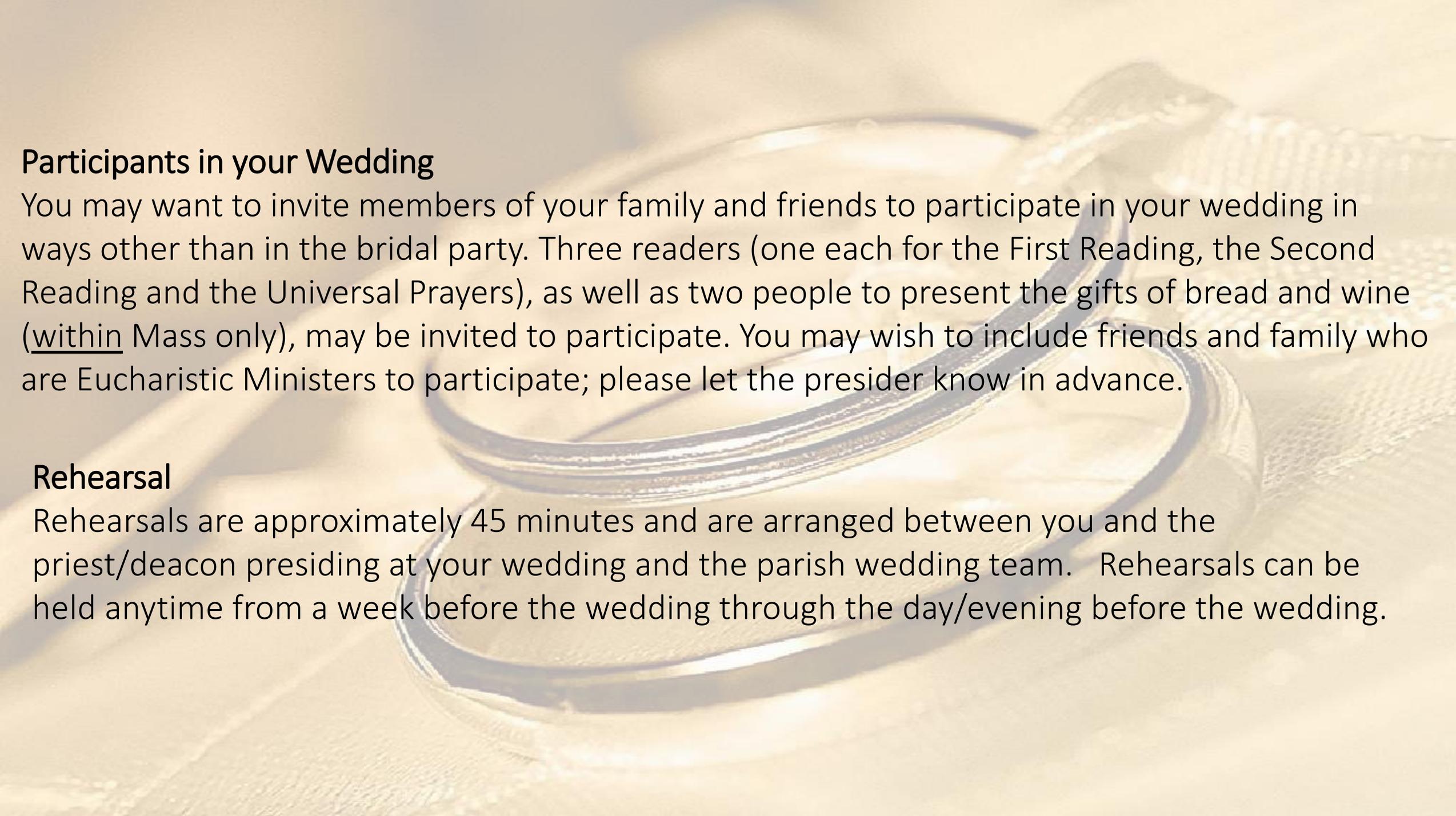
You will receive a copy of “Celebrating Marriage.” This workbook contains the selections of readings and prayers used in the Order of Celebrating Matrimony. Read these selections and choose the ones that speak to you about the spirituality of your marriage. You should complete the planning worksheet at the back of the workbook and submit them no later than one month before the wedding. **Please note that the readings from the Mass of the day and not the workbook must be used if your wedding takes place on a Sunday during the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter or on a Solemnity.**

Music

The concept of “love” is characterized by commitment and fidelity, and supported by the love of Christ. Popular songs often stress the couple only and exclude God and Church.

When planning the music for the liturgy, we invite you to reflect on what you are coming to understand in your preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage as a mirror of Christ’s love for the Church. The music you choose should reflect that understanding.

Liz Mancinelli will assist you in the planning of your wedding liturgy and rehearsal. Liz should be contacted at least three months prior to your wedding day at lfmusicministry.lf@gmail.com or her cell phone 908-277-1314.



Participants in your Wedding

You may want to invite members of your family and friends to participate in your wedding in ways other than in the bridal party. Three readers (one each for the First Reading, the Second Reading and the Universal Prayers), as well as two people to present the gifts of bread and wine (within Mass only), may be invited to participate. You may wish to include friends and family who are Eucharistic Ministers to participate; please let the presider know in advance.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals are approximately 45 minutes and are arranged between you and the priest/deacon presiding at your wedding and the parish wedding team. Rehearsals can be held anytime from a week before the wedding through the day/evening before the wedding.

A bouquet of white roses and baby's breath flowers is shown in the upper left corner of the page. The background is a soft, light-colored floral pattern.

Wedding Day

It is important for you and for the parish that your wedding begin on time and end on time. You certainly need to get all your pictures taken so as to be able to enjoy your wedding reception including the cocktail hour! The entire wedding ceremony is scheduled for one hour (within Mass) and one half hour (without Mass). Please plan your ceremony within that time frame.

Congratulations