

SAINT WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ The couple must meet with one of the parish priests **at least six (6) months in advance** of the wedding date.
- ❖ Each party must present:
 - Baptismal certificate (*issued by the church where they were baptized within the six (6) months prior to the wedding date*)
- ❖ A letter of permission to be married at St. William Church from the parish of either the bride or groom must be presented, if neither party is a member of St. William Church.
- ❖ **If either party has been married before, a date for the marriage cannot be set until a decree of nullity has been granted by the proper church authorities.**
- ❖ After all the above documents have been obtained the parties will be asked to:
 - Fill out the Preliminary Interrogatory form, which states their freedom to marry.
 - Apply for a dispensation, if one is needed.
 - Take FOCCUS, a compatibility test
 - Attend the Engaged Couples Workshop
 - Copy of the certificate of attendance is required
- ❖ Wedding date must be arranged with one of the priests/deacon of the parish. A date cannot be confirmed by anyone else.
- ❖ The offering for the church is **\$350.00**. This offering includes use of the church and the processing fee of the "FOCCUS" compatibility test.
 - If neither party nor their parents are registered members of the parish the fee is **\$500.00**.
 - A non-refundable deposit of **\$50.00** is required within two weeks for reserving a date in the parish books.
 - You are responsible for organist/musicians, singer and altar server fees.

THE LITURGY

- ❖ You will be provided with a book "Together for Life", which includes all the readings and prayers from which you will be able to choose the ones for your wedding. The priest or deacon officiating at your wedding will be able to assist you.
- ❖ The music selected for your wedding ceremony must be in keeping with the liturgical guidelines of the Church.
 - It is your responsibility to contact the church music director to arrange the music for your wedding
 - Nancy Benetti: cell#: 978-490-4579; e-mail: stwilliams.musica@gmail.com
 - If you are bringing your own soloist or musicians you need to inform the church music director about your choice
 - All music for the wedding ceremony must be approved by the church music director who will assist you in the choice of appropriate music
- ❖ All flower arrangements and other decorations are made by the couple with the florist.
 - No flowers are permitted on the top of the altar
 - No tape or tacks may be used to secure flowers or bows on the pews or any other furniture
 - If seasonal decoration is arranged in the sanctuary or in the church it needs to be respected. It can be modified only with the permission of the priest. After the wedding, it is the responsibility of the wedding party, to restore it to its original setting
 - The carpet measures **75 feet** from the foyer to the Sanctuary
- ❖ Throwing of rice, birdseed, flower petals or confetti is not allowed inside or outside the church
- ❖ Respectful clothing and behavior proper to the church is expected during the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. No food or drink should be brought into church. **Consumption of alcohol on the church property is forbidden.**
- ❖ Pictures and video may be taken during the wedding liturgy, provided this does not interrupt the ceremony. As a norm, the sanctuary where the altar is located is off limits. You should instruct your photographer to consult with the priest/deacon before the wedding starts.

REHEARSAL

- ❖ Rehearsals are normally conducted by the priest or deacon presiding at the wedding liturgy. If a visiting priest/deacon officiating at the wedding is going to conduct the rehearsal, please notify the rectory at least a week in advance.
- ❖ The times are scheduled in the order requested.

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ The marriage license may be obtained from any city/town clerk in Massachusetts not sooner than sixty (60) days and not later than one (1) week prior to the wedding.
- ❖ If the **priest/deacon** officiating at your wedding **IS NOT A RESIDENT** of the State of Massachusetts, he will have to obtain an authorization to marry from the Office of Secretary of State, Commissions Section, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 - Room 1719. You should consider it your responsibility to inform him of this requirement

TIMES OF MARRIAGE

- ❖ Friday evening after 6:30 P.M.
 - Memorial Day thru Labor Day an earlier time may be scheduled
- ❖ Saturday between 10:00 A.M. & 2:00 P.M. and after 5:30 P.M.
- ❖ Sunday at 3:00 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ We ask that the **marriage license** and the **remainder of the wedding fee** be brought to the office as soon as possible.
- ❖ If, after filling out the Preliminary Interrogatory form the personal information of either party should change, like phone number or address, they should inform the Rectory Office immediately.