

Holy Name Parish

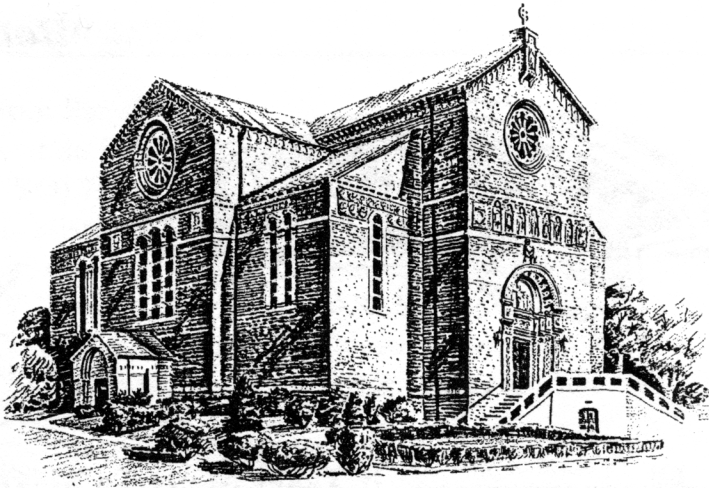
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Wedding Guidelines



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Table of Contents

Welcome	1
Documents	1
Scheduling the Wedding Date	2
Marriage Preparation	3
Banns	3
The Sacrament of Penance	3
Pre-Cana Website	3
Priest/Deacon	4
Music	4
Coordinators	5
Witnesses	5
Rehearsal	5
Readers and Eucharistic Ministers	6
Altar Servers	6
Flower Girl/Ring Bearer	7
Flowers/Bows/Aisle-Runner	7
Candles	8
Wedding Processions	8
Receiving Lines	8
Photographers/Videographers	9
Bagpipes	9
Church Offering	9
Confetti/Rice/Birdseed/Flower Petals	10
Fees	Inside Back Cover

Welcome to Holy Name Parish

The parishioners and staff of Holy Name Parish offer our prayers and support to both of you as you begin to plan your wedding liturgy and as you look ahead to your married life. Our community celebrates and cherishes God's love for both of you, and we hope you find our parish a place of welcome and support that seeks to help you deepen your relationship with Christ and his holy people, the Church.

This booklet has been prepared to familiarize you with some guidelines for planning your wedding liturgy here at Holy Name Parish. The information contained in this booklet is compiled from the most frequently asked questions regarding wedding liturgies. By no means does it answer all of the questions concerning weddings at Holy Name; we hope it will be a useful tool for you as you begin to plan this time of prayer and worship. At any time, please feel free to contact the priest or deacon assigned to your wedding with questions not addressed in this booklet.

A guiding principle in planning your wedding liturgy is to remind yourselves that your wedding is an act of worship of God. In the ceremony, we ask God and his Son, Jesus Christ, to consecrate your love and friendship for one another and to make your union a sacramental covenant. The guidelines in this booklet are offered to help maintain the religious spirit of your wedding.

Documents

If you are reading these guidelines, you have already met with us. Each person intending to marry in the Catholic Church is required to be interviewed by a priest or deacon, so that freedom to marry may be established. Each candidate is required to sign a document stating that he/she understands the Church's teaching that marriage is a sacrament; that he/she intends the marriage to be for the rest of his/her life; and that he/she agrees to mutually exchange the right to have children with his/her future spouse. This is a necessary and

important declaration that must be secured before a wedding is celebrated. If you are reading these guidelines, you may have already completed this step.

Each candidate is to provide the parish with a recent baptismal/confirmation record(s). Please contact the parish of your baptism and confirmation and request this documentation be mailed directly to Holy Name Parish to the attention of the priest or deacon who is assigned to your wedding. If you received either or both of the sacraments at Holy Name, we will verify your information here.

Finally, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that a marriage license be obtained from the state in order for a couple to marry. The license is necessary for your marriage to take place. A license may be obtained from any city or town hall in the state. When applying for your license, it is necessary for both parties to be present. N.B.: a marriage license is valid for sixty (60) days in Massachusetts. There is a 3-day waiting period to receive a license. Please plan accordingly. The marriage license must be presented to the priest or deacon prior to your wedding date. We suggest two weeks beforehand.

Scheduling the Wedding Date

Weddings are scheduled with respect to the couple's wishes and to the availability of the Church and the priest/deacon. Currently, weddings are scheduled for any evening; on Saturdays 11:00am–2:00pm and 5:30pm; on Sundays 1:00pm–4:00pm. It is important to keep a 1.5-hour space between each wedding. These times are established around the parish Mass schedule of the weekend.

Wedding Banns

Banns are usually published in the parish bulletin on the three consecutive weeks immediately prior to your wedding. Wedding banns can be sent to the home parish of non-Holy Name parishioners, if applicable and requested. Announcement of the wedding banns is a long-standing tradition of the Catholic Church and complies with Canon Law. It affords the people of God in your parish community the opportunity to pray for you as you approach your marriage.

Marriage Preparation

A vitally important part of the process of preparing for your wedding and marriage is to prepare yourselves spiritually and emotionally for the life that is ahead of you. To support this process, the Archdiocese of Boston requires all candidates for marriage to participate in a marriage preparation program (sometimes called Pre-Cana). Check the Archdiocesan website (www.rcab.org) for a list of Pre-Cana dates and locations. Please speak with the priest or deacon assigned to your wedding for additional information. Along with this formal marriage preparation program, you will also meet with the priest or deacon during your engagement period.

The Sacrament of Penance

Couples sometimes inquire about the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) as a means of preparing for marriage. The occasion of your marriage is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this sacrament. As you approach the altar to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage, God and the Church ask that you do so in a state of grace. Your marriage to each other is also a special relationship to God. In the same way you may desire your relationship with God to start anew and to allow God to forgive you of any hurt or sin that exists between you and God.

If you are uncomfortable about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or feel it's been too long since your last confession, please don't be embarrassed; speak to us. Our ministry is to support you and to help you with whatever issues or concerns you might have. Ultimately, we want you to know and cherish the great love and mercy God has for all his children. The schedule for Confession at Holy Name is listed in our bulletin. You may also schedule a meeting with one of the priests at any time or choose to attend confession outside the parish. We can assist you with times and places if you would like to know them.

Priest/Deacon

A priest or deacon will work with you and help you prepare spiritually and emotionally for your wedding and marriage as well as help you secure all the necessary documentation. He will also help you to plan your wedding liturgy, using the rich liturgical tradition of our Church to unfold with you and for you the beauty and sacredness of a sacramental marriage. Please do not hesitate to call on him if you have any questions at any time during your engagement. Relatives or friends who are priests or deacons are most welcome to officiate at your wedding. Also, we welcome ministers of other faiths. Please let us know in advance if this is the case.

Finally, since this is your marriage, we encourage you to raise all pertinent questions in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Music

That music enhances the sacredness of your wedding is unquestionable. Music expresses emotions, communicates a powerful message and enhances prayer. The music chosen for your wedding creates an atmosphere of reverence and celebration. The selection of good and appropriate music for Christian worship is extensive—giving you a wide variety of selections from which to choose. We are proud of the music at Holy Name—made possible because of the

professional, reverent, and joy-filled quality and skill of our music staff. The music director/cantor and organist are available to assist you with the selection and preparation of music for your wedding. The cantor and organist for Holy Name Parish are responsible for the playing and singing at all our liturgies. You are asked to discuss with our music director any plans of having someone other than our music ministers sing or play before finalizing those plans. A fee is directed to both the cantor and organist. If another cantor or organist is called in, our fees still apply. (See inside back cover for Fees.)

To begin your music planning, please pick-up a copy of the music planning guidelines and wedding music tape at the Rectory and contact our music director at least 2 months prior to your wedding.

Wedding Coordinators

Holy Name Parish is fortunate to have wedding coordinators to facilitate many of the details and logistics of the wedding liturgy. They are trained in coordinating the liturgies and have a full understanding of liturgical norms that direct planning and preparation. They are a great assistance to you and your family. They will lead your rehearsal, will be with you on your wedding day to ensure that all goes smoothly and reverently and assist in the cleanup. A fee is directed to both coordinators. (See inside back cover for Fees.).

While outside professional wedding coordinators may be of some assistance to you in other details concerning your wedding, they are not needed for the wedding liturgy in the church.

Wedding Rehearsals

Call Ann Connelly, our wedding coordinator, 46 weeks before the wedding to arrange a rehearsal time. Rehearsals are usually held on Thursday evenings at either 5:30pm or 6:30pm. Ann will review with you what is needed at the time of the rehearsal.

Witnesses

As directed by Canon Law, couples entering into the sacrament of marriage are required to exchange their vows before an ordained minister (bishop, priest or deacon) and two additional witnesses. As tradition has developed in our Church and our liturgy, the significant roles of the best man and maid/matron of honor have evolved. They should be persons who have supported you along the way to marriage and who will offer you encouragement, as you begin to live out this sacrament. To focus the marriage ritual on the action between God and the couple, the wedding couple and the maid/matron of honor and best man will be located within the sanctuary; other attendants will be seated in the church pews.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

At the heart of the Catholic Marriage Rite is the reading of Sacred Scripture. It is from Scripture that our understanding of the sacrament of marriage flows. As such, this moment within the liturgy is a sacred and enriching time. You may select some Scripture readings for your wedding. The priest or deacon will provide you with a booklet (Together for Life) that will assist you in selecting the readings and prayers. Plan to give the readers at your wedding a copy of the scripture passage, so they can practice beforehand.

If a family member or friend is a Eucharistic Minister, we welcome them to share this ministry at your wedding

Altar Servers

Two altar servers may be scheduled for your wedding. If you would like to have a family member or friend who is a trained altar server at the wedding, please notify the priest/deacon in advance. Your servers should attend the rehearsal.

A gratuity for each server is suggested and can be given directly to the servers before the wedding. (See inside back cover for Fees.)

Flower Girl/Ring Bearer

Children are certainly welcome in God's House. If you are planning to have children in your wedding party, please keep in mind that they can become overwhelmed during the liturgy and might find it difficult to sit quietly for the duration of the wedding. Consider arranging for an adult to sit with them during the ceremony and liturgy. Experience shows us that children younger than age six or seven are not usually able to handle this situation.

Flowers/Bows/Aisle-Runner

You are welcome to decorate the inside of the church and sanctuary with floral arrangements and place bows/flowers on the pews. Keep in mind that the church is a house of worship, and any and all arrangements or decorations should be respectful of its sacredness. If you have plans to decorate the church more extensively than floral arrangements or bows on the pews, please discuss those plans with the priest/deacon before the plans are finalized. The church is beautifully decorated during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Sometimes seasonal decorations are in the church and will remain during your wedding. The bridal couple is invited to leave their floral arrangements to be used for our Sunday Masses. Our parishioners will appreciate your generosity.

Aisle runners are discouraged. The runner often becomes tangled and twisted on the floor of our church, and thus becomes a safety hazard for those in attendance. The use of runners dates back to a time when church floors were "dirt" floors.

The church is open to florists one hour before your wedding time. If it is necessary for a florist to arrive earlier than that, they need to call the parish rectory on the day before to make arrangements.

The aisle at Holy Name is 125' long from the front door to the foot of the sanctuary. There are 31 rows of pews; and 14 rows of these pews are in front of the break.

Candles

The altar candles are lit for all weddings. For safety reasons, candles are not allowed on the pews; candelabras are not used.

Questions often arise in regard to the use of the wedding-unity candle. This candle, which has become somewhat of a custom in this area of the country, is not a part of the Catholic Marriage Rite. You are not required to have a unity candle during the wedding liturgy; but you may wish to provide one.

Wedding Processions

The wedding procession may take various forms. Refer to the book *Together for Life*.

Receiving Lines

Receiving lines are permitted at the back or outside of the church. However, they are permitted only with consideration of other liturgies that might be occurring on the day of your wedding. If your wedding is followed closely by another wedding or liturgy, a receiving line may be curtailed or may not be possible out of consideration for those who are following you.

Photographers/Videographers

Photographers and videographers are welcome to take pictures or videos inside of the Church. We ask them kindly not to interfere in the ceremony by becoming a distraction to you, your guests or the celebrant. For this reason, the photographer/videographer is not allowed in the sanctuary. If they choose to shoot from the choir loft, they are asked to check with the Cantor and the Organist. A good guideline to follow is that the photographer or videographer should not be in the line of sight of any of the guests. On the day of your wedding, the wedding coordinator will remind the photographer and/or videographer of our guidelines and explain how to obtain the best pictures according to how the celebrant will celebrate the ceremony.

The church is usually available following your wedding ceremony for additional pictures. This availability follows the same guidelines for receiving lines and we ask that this time be limited to no longer than 30 minutes.

Bagpipes

Some couples hire bagpipers. We do ask that he/she remain outside the church. This affords a good vantage point from which to greet your guests as they arrive and to send them off as they go to your reception.

Church Offering

It is customary and appropriate for the bride and groom to make a monetary offering to the parish at the time of your wedding. A donation of \$300 is asked of you. Some couples choose to give a certain percentage of the reception cost. This money is put towards the maintenance of the Church building and to the ongoing work of our parish and supporting those in need. Holy Name has a beautiful

and spacious worship space, which lends itself to a meaningful and memorable setting for your wedding. The maintenance of this building and space is constant, including heating, air conditioning, lighting and custodial costs. We are proud of our church, and we are equally proud of our efforts to be of service and help to those in need.

Your donation is greatly appreciated and much needed, for our efforts are totally funded by the goodwill offerings of our parishioners.

If the requested offering presents a financial hardship for you, speak to the priest or deacon.

Confetti/Rice/Birdseed/Flower Petals

We ask that you and your guests not use items such as confetti, rice, birdseed, flower petals, bubbles, etc. These items can create a slippery surface that puts guests at risk.

Notes

The following services are provided by Holy Name Parish. As with all professional services, fees are expected.

We ask that all fees be submitted to the church two weeks prior to the wedding.

Kindly make one certified bank check payable to
Holy Name Parish
for \$800 to cover the fees as listed below.

Fees

Music Coordinator/Soloist Thomas Manguem 617-325-4865	\$200
Organist	\$200
Wedding Coordinators Ann Connelly 617-327-3506	\$100
Church 617-325-4865	\$300

Altar Servers:

Gratuity to be given directly to Altar Servers.