

*Planning and Celebrating
Your Wedding in
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish
A Practical Guide*



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At the beginning of creation,

God made them male and female.

They are no longer two but one flesh.

Congratulations on your engagement and blessings on your preparation for marriage in the Catholic Church of St. Elizabeth of Hungary!

All of us in the parish joyfully extend our prayerful support on your wedding and your married life! This booklet is designed to be a practical help for you during the days ahead. There are so many details that call for your attention, and the pages that follow will assist you in planning your church celebration of marriage.

FOUR EASY STEPS FOR YOU!

YOUR FIRST STEP

Your *first step* is done--the wedding interview! You have received a copy of this booklet at the end of your interview. The wedding date has been set in the parish calendar!



YOUR SECOND STEP

You will be completing these *second steps* right after your wedding interview.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: FOCCUS AND PRE-CANA:

FOCCUS is an instrument used around the country that helps couples understand a little more deeply their relationship, compatibility, and ways they see themselves and the details of married life. (*It stands for "Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study."*)

You will meet with a parishioner who will give you the opportunity to complete the questionnaire (individually). The questionnaires are scored electronically in Omaha, Nebraska. When the results are received, you will be contacted for a conversation where the results can be explained to you. The results are confidential and are meant for you alone.

PRE-CANA: All couples are required to be prepared for marriage. This is called pre-Cana (Jesus' first miracle was at the wedding feast in the town of Cana). We encourage you to register for the parish pre-Cana program. The dates and registration form have been given to you during your wedding interview. This is a six-week program. The first and last meetings take place on a weekend and will include the celebration of Mass. Your parents and friends are invited to be part of these liturgies where you receive special blessings and prayers. The remaining four meetings take place on a weeknight at 7:30 p.m.

Should you not be able to attend the six parish sessions because of your schedule, you can arrange your marriage preparation through the Diocese of Rockville Centre (www.drvc.org). The diocese has different schedules (weekdays, weekends, etc.) that may suit your schedule better. The diocese will provide you with a certificate of attendance which you are to send to the parish. Your decision regarding pre-Cana is important and is to be made as soon as possible after your wedding interview.

NEWLY-ISSUED BAPTISM CERTIFICATES:

Perhaps you were baptized here at St. Elizabeth parish! We will have your record of baptism in the parish baptism register and there is no need for you to obtain another one. For those baptized in another parish, you will need to contact that parish and have them send you a new baptism certificate. (Your original certificate you can keep for family memories.) The parish where you were baptized will be happy to mail you the new certificate **OR** you can have it mailed directly to St. Elizabeth, whichever you prefer.



YOUR THIRD STEP

PLANNING THE LITURGY - PRAYER

It is best that this is completed at least two months before your wedding. This will give you time to make your decisions, meet with people who can help you, and ensure that the wedding is celebrated as you would like. While you have many choices, all your choices are part of the way the Catholic Church celebrates the sacraments, including your marriage.

NUPTIAL MASS OR A CEREMONY

When two Catholics marry, the wedding Mass is the usual way the sacrament is celebrated. At the wedding Mass, the bride and groom receive from the “one bread and the one cup,” the Eucharistic sign of their unity in marriage. For special reasons, the couple may choose to have a wedding ceremony. When a Catholic marries someone who is not a Catholic, the wedding ceremony is the usual way the sacrament is celebrated. Should you have questions about this, your priest or deacon will be happy to help you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

As you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage, it is strongly recommended that you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The pre-Cana sessions held on Saturdays may be a convenient opportunity to receive the Sacrament just before Mass. Other arrangements can be made by you at St. Elizabeth or any Catholic Church.

TIMES FOR WEDDINGS

You may schedule your wedding on a Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or 3:00 p.m. as a Nuptial Mass or a Ceremony. Sunday weddings may only be scheduled at 3:00 p.m. as a Ceremony (unless you have your own priest to officiate).

UNITED IN CHRIST BOOKLET

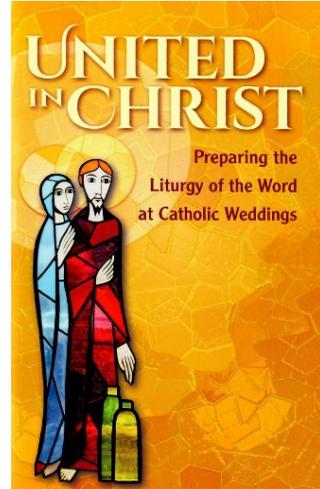
The booklet has a form at the back which lists all of your selections. Once you complete it, tear it out and make sure that your priest/deacon has this at least two months before your wedding. If you would like, you can contact your Officiant and go over any questions you have about the wedding liturgy.

Readings: There are three choices from the Scriptures that you will be making.

The first reading is always from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) except during the Easter season when readings are from the Book of Revelation.

The second reading is from the New Testament, often from the letters of St. Paul.

The third reading is the Gospel.
(Always read by the officiating priest or deacon.)



Readers must be baptized Christians who read the Word of God and other prayers with clarity and dignity. They should understand the seriousness and importance of this role in your wedding ceremony.

PRAYERS

You select the prayers and blessings you prefer from the *United in Christ* booklet which contains all the choices and also explains them.

TWO WITNESSES

You choose two witnesses who are part of the wedding and sign the marriage license. There is room on the license for only the signatures of two witnesses. The bride, groom and two witnesses sit in front of the altar. All other members of the wedding party, including “honorary best man” or “honorary maid of honor,” (if you have them) sit in the first pew behind the couple and two witnesses.

WHO OFFICIATES AT YOUR WEDDING?

Usually the priest or deacon with whom you met for your interview will be the Officiant at your wedding. Should you wish to have a family member or friend who is a Catholic priest or deacon as your Officiant, please let us know so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WHO CAN BE PART OF THE LITURGY?

You are welcome to have family or friends who are good readers and baptized Christians help with the First and Second Reading. (The Gospel is always read by the priest or deacon.) You may also wish to have a baptized Christian read the Prayer of the Faithful. Those chosen to bring up the gifts must be Catholics who will be receiving Communion at the Mass.

Ring-bearers and flower girls are often younger children. Our experience dictates that they be at least four years old and have sufficient maturity to be part of a public ceremony. If you have ring bearers, they must carry the actual rings being used in the ceremony. Otherwise, the rings will be carried by an altar server.

LITURGICAL PROCESSION

Altar Servers with Processional Cross¹

Priest or Deacon

Groom's parents (if not accompanying groom.)²

Bride's parents (if not accompanying bride.)²

Bridesmaids and Ushers - as couples.

Flower girl and ringer bearer (if any).

Best Man and Maid of Honor - as a couple.

Bride and Groom together³

~ or ~

Groom with parent(s)

Bride with parent(s)

(If the bride and groom do not walk down together, the groom will still be in the procession. He will be the last one to walk down before the bride.

¹ Altar servers will carry the rings in the procession if there is no ring bearer.)

² This is optional.

³ This option is recommended—it highlights the maturity of the couple in this independent and important consent to each other.

YOUR FOURTH STEP

PLANNING YOUR MUSIC AND REHEARSAL

The following can be done as you wish, keeping in mind that the Wedding Rehearsal is your “deadline” for most of what needs to be completed.

MUSIC

Music is a basic element of our Catholic traditions and is, itself, a prayer. It supports and enhances a prayerful atmosphere at your wedding. The music you choose will encourage all your guests to pray and sing. The celebration of marriage is a religious event, so certain popular tunes and songs will not be appropriate for church and are best reserved for the reception.



MEET WITH THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

You can make an appointment with our Music Director, Virgil Barkauskas, as soon as possible to assist you in the planning and coordinating of the music for your wedding. He is best reached via email, vbarka@stelizabeth.org.

INVITING GUEST MUSICIANS

The Organist and Cantor are part of the parish staff. Please do not make arrangements with other musicians without first speaking to the Music Director. Qualified guest musicians and soloists can be invited and are to be familiar with the order and structure of the Catholic wedding liturgy. Guest musicians follow the parish and diocesan guidelines for wedding music and are experienced at the task of leading a congregation in song. All guest musicians, soloists and programs of music are approved by the Music Director.

MUSIC FEES

The fee for our Organist, Virgil Barkauskas, is \$150 ()please make your check payable to Virgil. The fee for our Cantor is \$135—Virgil will provide you with the name of the Cantor for check-writing purposes. If you are providing your own musicians, the Music Director and Cantor fees are still expected to be paid. Please bring the music fees with you when you meet with the Music Director. Instrumentalist (trumpet / violin) fee is \$200. Rehearsal with guest soloist or instrumentalist is \$50.00.

MUSIC SELECTIONS

For a Nuptial Mass, you choose one selection from each of the categories. For a Wedding Ceremony, choose one from the Processional, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and the Recessional lists. Music not included on this list must be approved by the Music Director.

PROCESSIONAL / RECESSIONAL

Canon in D Major (J. Pachelbel)
Hymn of Joy (L. Von Beethoven, arr. by A. Travis)
Psalm 19, The Heavens Declare (B. Marcello)
Rigaudon (A. Campra)
Rondeau (J. Mouret)
Trumpet Tune (H. Purcell)
Trumpet Voluntary (J. Clarke)

MUSIC SELECTIONS

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind And Merciful (Haugen) #75

Psalm 118: Let Us Rejoice (Haugen) #81

Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You (Haugen) #86

Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name (Haugen) #92

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Praise To You Lord Jesus Christ (*Lent only*)

HYMN OF PRAISE / PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Ave Maria (Schubert or Bach/Gounot)

Blest Are They #735

May Love Be Ours

One Hand, One Heart (L. Bernstein)

I Have Loved You (Joncas) #588

The Wedding Song (Stookey)

When Love Is Found #966

MUSIC SELECTIONS

COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb #939

Center of My Life #679

Here I Am Lord #777

Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring (J.S.Bach)

No Greater Love #701

One Bread, One Body #932

Panis Angelicus (C. Franck)

Take and Eat #950

We Remember #681



THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

SETTING UP YOUR REHEARSAL

You can set the date and time of your rehearsal as soon as you would like. This can be done at any time, especially because the parish schedule could fill up the closer you get to your wedding day. Please call the Parish Center at 631.271.4455 or email center@stelizabeth.org to arrange for a convenient time for your rehearsal. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays (6:00 p.m. is the last appointment) and Fridays (between 5 and 7 p.m.) Rehearsals may not be scheduled for weekends. As there are often several rehearsals or other activities in the church on any given night, it is imperative that you be on time.

THE WEDDING MINISTRY TEAM:

The Wedding Ministry Team is happy to be with you for the wedding rehearsal and on the day of your wedding. They will be available to help welcome your guests and ensure that the celebration is prayerful and organized.

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR REHEARSAL:

Bring your Marriage License to the rehearsal. Any New York State Town Clerk will draw up the marriage license. Some local numbers are: Huntington 631.351.3206; Babylon 631.957.3000; Hempstead 516.489.5000; Oyster Bay 516.922.5800. By law, applicants are obligated to appear in person to obtain this license. The marriage may not be performed for twenty-four (24) hours from the issuance of the marriage license, and the license is good sixty (60) days from the date of issue.

Programs, bubbles, etc. are all brought to the rehearsal as well!

OTHER MATTERS

PARISH DONATION:

St. Elizabeth parish asks parishioners for a donation of \$600 (non-parishioners \$1,000) per the guidelines of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Donations made on the occasion of the celebration of a sacrament assist the community with maintaining the church and grounds with beauty and dignity. *Should there be a financial difficulty, please speak to the Pastor.*

ALTAR SERVERS:

Couples often ask about gratuities for the two altar servers assigned to assist at your wedding. It is customary to give a small gratuity to them before the ceremony.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

St. Elizabeth Parish will publish the banns of marriage in the church bulletin for the three weeks before your wedding. This is to allow the community to know that you are being married and is a centuries-old way of determining if there are any obstacles to your marriage. Feel free to contact your fiancé's parish and let them know the date of your wedding so that they can publish the banns in his/her bulletin.

CHANGING THE TIME/DATE, POSTPONING OR CANCELLING

There is usually not a problem to make a change. Please contact the priest or deacon with whom you had your interview. He is the person responsible to make the change for you on the parish calendar.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Simple flower arrangements may be placed on either side of the sanctuary and on the ends of the pews. *No glass vases with water are permitted on the ends of pews.* Flowers should not be placed in front of the altar or ambo (pulpit). The florist is never to move the altar, candles, etc. in the Sanctuary. In order to preserve the dignity of our church, extensive displays, such as decorative archways, aisle candelabra and balloons are not permitted. The four chairs for the wedding couple and witnesses are left as they are. Also, to avoid the danger of the congregants slipping or falling, there is no scattering of flower petals or other materials during the wedding procession. Should you choose to celebrate your wedding during the Season of Lent, keep it in mind that this is a Penitential Season, and that no flowers or decorations are in church.



PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

It is important that you discuss these guidelines with your photographer/videographer so they are aware of our church procedures before you enter into an agreement with them. No exceptions to these procedures will be made on the day of your wedding. Remember that these professionals work for you and should abide by the parish rules and your sensibilities, not vice versa. Photographers and videographers have a special responsibility to perform their roles in a way that will not mar the dignity or the sanctity of your ceremony. The following must be observed:



Only one photographer and one videographer may be at the wedding. During a nuptial mass, both the photographer and videographer are part of the congregation and kneel or are seated during the Eucharistic prayer.

The place for them to stand is at the wide break on either side of the main aisle. They are not permitted to leave that location during the wedding and should plan their equipment needs accordingly. Video lights are not permitted in the church at all. The still photographer may take flash pictures only during the processional, recessional, and during the vow ceremony. Double-lighting (i.e., lighting assistants) is not permitted in church during the wedding.

Please note: Many times the church is being used immediately after your wedding. Should you wish to return into the church for additional pictures after the ceremony, please request permission so that we can be sure there is time for you.

THROWING OF RICE

We no longer permit the use of items such as rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, etc. which are dangerous, especially in wet weather and quite difficult to remove from the parish walkways and grounds. Some couples use safer items, e.g., bubbles. Please contact the parish so that permission can be granted.

RUNNER

We advise against using a runner in the main aisle of the church. Runners shift, slip and tear and are hazardous.

WEDDING PROGRAM

A special program for an individual wedding is an excellent preparation aid which couples choose to include. It is the responsibility of the couple to secure all necessary copyrights. The words or music to any song may never be reprinted without written permission of the publisher. If in doubt, please ask the Music Director. The booklet can include an outline of the parts of the service and titles of songs, etc. Reprinting texts and lyrics is usually against copyright laws. Feel free to send a draft to the Parish Center before you print it so that we can make suggestions for you.

FINAL MATTERS

As you prepare for your special day and the liturgy of the Sacrament of Marriage, please also be mindful and reflective of the following:

- › Punctuality is very useful.
- › Respect for the sacredness of the Church dwelling space is appreciated.
- › Sobriety for all present, especially the wedding party, fosters respect and integrity for the Sacrament of Marriage.

We hope that this booklet has answered all your questions. Should you have additional questions not covered here, please feel free to call the Center at 271.4455 or email center@stelizabeth.org.



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