

PHOTOGRAPHY: While it is understandable the photograph record this very memorable occasion of your life, any photographs taken during the wedding are not to be distraction or interfere with or detract from the religious and the sacramental nature of the celebration. Photographers are not to enter the sanctuary (**altar area**) of the church. They should not come beyond the altar steps.

Photographs are to be taken only at the following times:

- a) Processional of the Bride and Bridesmaids
- b) The Exchange of the Wedding Vows
- c) The lighting of the Unity Candle (if used)
- d) The Recessional of the Married Couple following the Wedding
- e) **Videographers ARE NOT TO USE CHURCH OUTLETS**

PROCESSIONAL & RECESSIONAL: Flower petals are not to be dropped on the church floor. Because of insurance concerns and injuries in the past, we are not permitted to allow the dropping of flower petals. Small children should not be a part of the wedding unless they have been properly prepared for their participation. Rice, confetti, bird seed and the like or not be used outside the church. There is no maintenance staff to clean up after the wedding. Flower archways are not to be used.

FLOWERS: Please notify the Church as to when flowers are to be delivered. Usually flowers are delivered the morning of the wedding.

TIME OF THE WEDDING: Weddings are **NOT** celebrated on Sundays in St. Vito's Church. Friday afternoons and Saturdays are usually the days for this type of celebration. **PLEASE BE ON TIME** for your wedding so as not to interfere with usual parish schedules of Masses, Baptisms, Confessions, etc. If you are more than fifteen minutes late for your wedding, it may be necessary to shorten what you have planned as the very memorable day.

REHEARSAL: Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the wedding day. This should be decided with the priest/deacon.

WEDDING PARTY: You may have as many in your wedding party as you choose. However, **ONLY ONE MAID/MATRON OF HONOR** will sit in the sanctuary with you and only ONE BEST MAN is allowed. All others ushers and bridesmaids will be seated in the first pews of the church off the middle aisle.

PRIEST/ DEACON CELEBRANT: Normally the priest/deacon of the parish officiates at the weddings here in St. Vito's Church. If you invite a friend who is a priest/deacon or a priest that you know well to officiate at your wedding, **HE MUST CONTACT THE PASTOR OF ST. VITO'S CHURCH** to obtain such permission. It is traditional and customary that the married couple make a donation to the invited priest. This is outside of the usual offering for St. Vito's Parish.

CHURCH OFFERING

The Church asks the following offering for weddings

Church offering..... \$600

The offering should be given to the parish a week before the wedding.

Please make offering in cash

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM



The parish congratulates you on your upcoming celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Jesus instituted this most beautiful sacrament as part of God's divine plan of love and the continuation of the human race. It is only proper that this union be celebrated in the church. In order to assure that your preparations for this sacred celebration is completed and as easy as possible for you, the following obligations and guidelines in this pamphlet.

Church of Saint Vito

- A. The couple **MUST** inform the church at least **SIX MONTHS** before the wedding is to take place, even if the exact date has not definitely been decided.
- B. At least one of the parties **MUST** be Catholic and **OFFICIALLY REGISTERED** as an adult parishioner of St. Vito's Parish. The Catholic party or parties **MUST** regularly attend Mass in the parish.
- C. All Catholic parties must have received the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- D. If one of the parties is non-Catholic, proof of Baptism from his/her church, must be presented. If one of the parties is non-Christian [Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, etc.] this must be made known.
- E. Both parties must be free to marry [no previous Church or Civil Marriage without an annulment or if there has been a divorce]. Documents must be presented indicating an annulment or if there has been a divorce].
- F. All church and civil requirements must be fulfilled.
- G. The priest **MUST** meet with the couple several times before the marriage takes place.

CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

1. Each Catholic party must obtain a recent (new) copy or the Baptism Certificate issued within six months of the wedding date. The non-Catholic party must present proof of Baptism or inform the priest/deacon that there was never a Baptism. Non-Christian parties must indicate his/her religious affiliation.
2. Each Catholic party must present proof of the First Communion & Confirmation.
3. If one of the parties is **NOT** from St. Vito's Parish, a letter of freedom must be obtained from their parish priest giving permission to be married in St. Vito's Parish. The letter must be signed by the parish pastor and must contain the official parish seal.
4. An affidavit must be presented from a parent or relative of each party stating that a **RELIGIOUS OR CIVIL MARRIAGE** has never taken place. The only exception is when an annulment has been obtained.
5. If there has been a church annulment of a previous marriage, the annulment papers [and divorce decree] must be presented.
6. Each couple must be prepared to meet with the priest/deacon arranging the marriage several times before the actual wedding.
7. Each couple is obliged to attend the Archdiocesan **PRE-CANA CONFERENCE**. A booklet will be given to you to choose a date before you marriage. A certificate issued after the conference must be brought to the priest/deacon.
8. At some time before the marriage the couple must complete the **PRE-MARRIAGE QUESTIONNAIRE. THE PRIEST MUST CONDUCT THIS INTERVIEW.**
9. If one of the parties is non-Catholic, permission must be granted from the Archdiocese of New York and the Catholic party must agree to raise the children in the Catholic faith. The Catholic party must sign an agreement to this effect. If one of the parties is non-Christian [not baptized] a dispensation for the marriage must be obtained from the Archdiocese of New York and again, the Catholic party must agree to raise children in the Catholic faith.

**ALL OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE FULFILLED
BEFORE THE MARRIAGE CAN TAKE PLACE IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

The couple must obtain a marriage license from the Marriage License Bureau. The license is valid for 60 day period. Any civil divorce papers must be presented to the priest/deacon. If the Catholic party had previously been married civilly and now wishes to have the marriage blessed in the church, the priest/deacon must see the civil marriage certificate in order that a religious ceremony take place. If the Catholic party was married civilly and is now divorced from the original spouse and now wishes to marry in the Catholic Church to another spouse, the divorce papers must be presented. Such a marriage is permitted since every Catholic is obligated to be married before a Catholic priest/deacon.

OFFICIAL PARISH MEMBERSHIP

At least one of the parties **MUST BE OFFICIALLY A MEMBER OF SAINT VITO'S PARISH.** This means that as an adult you regularly attend Mass in the parish and are listed on the official parish registration form. Simply because one was baptized in the parish many years ago or that the fact that one received the Sacraments here, does not mean that you are officially registered in the parish. Your regular attendance at Mass as well as your official registration form as an adult Christian is an indication of your membership.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

NUPTIAL MASS: The wedding is celebrated within a Mass. This is encouraged if both parties are Catholic.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY: The celebration of the marriage outside of Mass. The wedding vows are exchanged but the Mass is not offered. This is suggested when one of the couple is non-Catholic or non-Christian.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: The couple will be asked to assist in the planning of the Mass or the Ceremony by choosing the appropriate scripture readings. This will be done at the direction of and in consultation with the priest/deacon.

MUSIC: The party must contact the church music director in planning the music to be played at the wedding. **PLEASE NOTE** that only appropriate church music or tasteful classical organ music is to be selected. If you wish other instruments this must be discussed with the church music director. All music fees for the singer as well as the organist must be discussed with the church music director, **MR. JOHN MYERS** or **MR. EDGAR RIQUELME**. Popular or fad music has no place in the spiritual setting of the church. Such music should be reserved for the reception following the wedding. You may obtain the telephone for our music directors from the parish office or you may see them following any of the Sunday Masses.



From this day forward

AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE

