

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



175 Wolf Hill Road, Melville, NY 11747

631.271.4455

center @stelizabeth.org

[www.stelizabeth.org](http://www.stelizabeth.org)

*At the beginning of creation,*

*God made them male and female.*

*They are no longer two but one flesh.*

**C**ongratulations 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 Sunday morning and include the celebration of Mass at 12:00 Noon. 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](http://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 the 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. The *Together for Life* Booklet explains the difference. 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.

### TIMES FOR WEDDINGS

You may schedule our 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 or deacon to officiate).



### **TOGETHER FOR LIFE 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.

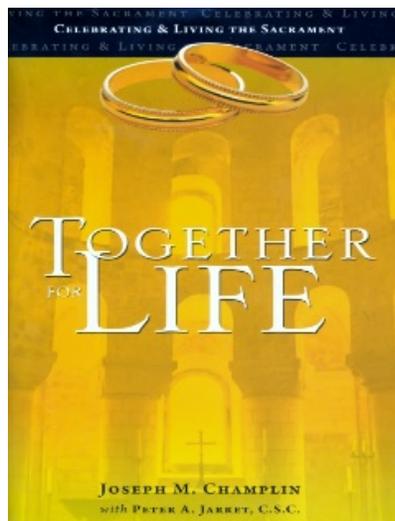
Readings: There are three choices from the Scriptures that you will be making.

The first reading is always from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures).

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 are people who can read the Word of God and other prayers with clarity and dignity. They should understand the seriousness and importance of their role in your wedding ceremony.



### **PRAYERS**

You select the prayers and blessings you prefer from the *Together for Life* 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.

### **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 help with the first and second reading. (The gospel is always read by the priest or deacon.) You may also wish to have someone read the Prayer of the Faithful. 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.



### **UNITY CANDLE**

Many couples like the symbol of the Unity Candle, one candle lit by the couple and extinguishing the two separate candles. You will need to obtain this candle and an accompanying stand (and hold onto it as a

keepsake after your wedding). It is brought to the rehearsal where the Wedding Team assists with a walk-through.

## 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 creates an atmosphere of prayer and joy 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](mailto:vbarka@stelizabeth.org) or by calling the Parish Center at 631.271.4455.

### 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 \$135; please make your check payable to Virgil; the fee for our Cantor is \$125; please make your check payable to “cash.” If you are providing your own musicians, the Music Director and Cantor fees are still 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, Psalm Response, Gospel Acclamation, Unity Candle add the Recessional lists. Music not included on this list must be approved by the Music Director.*

### **PROCESSIONALS FOR BRIDE AND BRIDAL PARTY**

- Bridal Chorus (R. Wagner)
- Trumpet Tune (H. Purcell)
- Canon in D Major (J. Pachelbel)
- Rigaudon (A. Campra)
- Trumpet Voluntary (J. Clarke)

## MUSIC SELECTIONS

### PSALM RESPONSE

- Ps. 24: I Have Loved You (Joncas) GC504
- Ps. 63: Your Love Is Finer Than Life (Haugen) GC62
- Ps. 84: Happy Are They Who Dwell In Your House (Porter) GC77
- Ps. 103: The Lord Is Kind And Merciful (Haugen) GC100
- Ps. 118: Let Us Rejoice (Haugen) GC114
- Ps. 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You (Haugen) GC125
- Ps. 145: I Will Praise Your Name (Haugen) GC137

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

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

### PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS AND UNITY CANDLE

- Ave Maria (F. Schubert)
- Blest Are They (GC659)
- When Love Is Found (GC865)
- Nuptial Blessing (GC870)
- May Love Be Ours (GC623)
- The Wedding Song (Stookey)
- God In The Planning (GC868)
- Wherever You Go (GC872)
- One Hand, One Heart (L. Bernstein)

## **MUSIC SELECTIONS**

### **EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION**

Mass of Creation (GC166)

### **COMMUNION**

We Remember (GC593)

Center Of My Life (GC598)

Take And Eat (GC831)

Take And Eat This Bread (GC842)

Here I Am Lord (GC686)

No Greater Love (GC628)

One Bread, One Body (GC830)

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

Panis Angelicus (C. Franck)

### **RECESSIONAL**

Wedding March (F. Mendelssohn)

Trumpet Voluntary (J. Clarke)

Psalm 19, The Heavens Declare (B. Marcello)

Rondeau (J. Mouret)

Hymn to Joy (L. Von Beethoven, arr. by A. Travis)

## **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 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 5:00 and 7:00 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 for your rehearsal.

### **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, unity candle, bubbles are all brought to the rehearsal as well!

## **OTHER MATTERS**

### **PARISH DONATION:**

St. Elizabeth parish asks for a donation of \$600 on the occasion of your wedding, as 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 your priest or deacon.

### **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. 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. Also, because of the danger of people slipping or falling, there is no scattering of flower petals or other materials during the wedding procession.



### **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 have shifted, slipped and torn and can be 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.

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](mailto:center@stelizabeth.org).



*Rev. 07.14*