

WEDDING REMINDERS

We at Blessed Sacrament Church (BSC) and St. Vincent De Paul Church (SVC) congratulate you on this most important decision in your lives, and we pray for your success and your happiness. We want to do all that we can to help you prepare for this special day, so we offer you these reminders to help you plan for this especially important event.

1. Pre-nuptial interview: The priest arranging your wedding service will meet with you to fill out the pre-nuptial interview forms, ideally at least six months before your wedding. Any dispensations required (e.g., inter-faith marriage, etc.) will be prepared and taken care of them. A recent (within six months) copy of the baptismal record for each party, if they are Catholic, is to be obtained from the parish of baptism, unless the church of baptism is Blessed Sacrament or St. Vincent De Paul in Syracuse, in which case the record is on file here. A non-Catholic Christian party may obtain a new record of his/her baptism from their church or provide a duplicate of an older copy.

2. Planning Ceremony Guide: We encourage you to give considerable thought to planning the marriage ceremony. This will not only make it personal to you but also give you an opportunity to include as many of your family and friends as possible in the liturgy. The Diocese of Syracuse requires at least a six months' notice to the parish before a wedding date can be set. We provide you with a marriage handbook, *Together For Life*, which will help you choose among the different prayers and Scriptural readings. The priest performing your ceremony will also guide you in making these and other choices. It is important to remember that, although the priest is recognized by New York State as an official witness that makes the marriage civilly legal, his primary role is to witness the Sacrament of Matrimony, which we consider the more important element of the ceremony.

3. Pre Cana Program: An important and necessary part of your marriage preparation is participation in the Pre Cana Program. We recommend two programs, and the priest performing your ceremony will help guide you in the one best suited for you.

4. Wedding Music: Music is an important part of the liturgy and should be appropriate for the occasion and chosen with care. Music Directors (Mary Lynn Giacobbe at BSC 315-656-3782/315952-8670, STV-Patricia Pilon at SVC 315-256-2776 as soon as possible after the wedding date has been arranged so that they can enter it on their schedule and

begin to guide you in your choice of music. They will arrange for a vocalist and are also able to suggest and/or arrange for additional instrumentalists (flutist, guitarist, etc.,) if you would like them. Their fees, of course, would be extra and would be arranged with them. It is our expectation that liturgical (church) music, or occasionally classical music, will be used before and during the service, and that our church organist and vocalist will be used regardless of other instrumentation. Recorded music of any kind is not appropriate for the church service.

5. The Liturgical stipends: are \$150.00 for the organist; \$150.00 for the church, which covers the use of the facilities, the utilities, and the offering to the priest; \$150 minimum for the vocalist, depending upon who is available. Checks should be made out to Blessed Sacrament Church or St. Vincent De Paul Church, and to the organist and vocalist. A convenient time to present these stipends, is the night of the rehearsal.

6. Flowers and Runners: Although not required, we appreciate the flowers for the wedding left for the weekend Masses. Floral pieces are not permitted on the Altar table itself. They should be displayed on the floor or on pedestals. A runner is not recommended, partly for safety reasons, but if you would like one the florist may need to know that the length of the main aisle is 115' at BSC and 90' at SVC.

7. Offering to the Poor: Since as Christians we are aware of so many needy in the world, you may wish to share the joy of this day by giving an offering to the poor. A gift may be given to our Food Pantries or some other local or world-wide organization. A gift basket may be brought up during the Presentation of the Gifts to symbolize this charitable act.

8. No rice, confetti, bird seed, or anything else be thrown inside or outside the church. They are exceedingly difficult to clean up and the mess presents a problem for a later wedding or week-end liturgy. Since rice is food and much of the world is starving, it seems inappropriate to use food in this fashion. Professional photographers: Also, we ask that you inform everyone that only the professional still and/or video photographers are allowed to take pictures or film during the ceremony. It is our experience that pictures taken by family and guests only distract and detract from the beauty and the solemnity of your wedding day. We try to schedule weddings so there is sufficient time after the ceremony to allow for pictures by family and friends. No alcoholic beverages of any kind are to be consumed or even allowed in the church or on church property. Anyone discovered violating this will be asked to leave. We trust that you can understand our concern and we thank you for your understanding on these matters and for your help.

9. Your wedding license can be obtained anywhere in New York State, at a village, town, or city clerk's office, at least 24 hours before and not more than 60 days before the time of the wedding. (See enclosed folder.)

10. Rehearsals are usually the day before and, for your convenience, as early in the evening as possible to allow time for your rehearsal party or other plans you may have for the evening. Please bring the marriage license at this time as well as anything else to be used during the ceremony: wedding candle, chalices, etc. We also suggest that you bring the church offering and the organist's/vocalist's or other musician's fees at this time, if you have not taken care of that already, so that you will have fewer things to remember on the actual wedding day.

11. Wedding schedules: weddings are scheduled two hours apart to avoid conflicts between ceremonies (reception lines, pictures, etc.). At BSC and SVC, weddings may be scheduled at 10:30AM, 12:30PM and 2:30PM. Because of Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, no wedding should be scheduled after 2:30PM on Saturday or Saturday evenings. No weddings at any time are allowed on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

12. Reception of Holy Communion: If the wedding ceremony is in the context of a Mass please remind your wedding party, family, and guests that Holy Communion will be offered to those who wish to receive. If anyone feels the need to receive the Sacrament of Penance before receiving, we suggest that they do this sometime before the wedding, and not at the rehearsal.

We want to do all that we can to be sure that everything goes well for you during this time of planning and preparation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us anytime by phone or by e-mail. Our prayers are with you, not only for this day, but also for the years ahead. Congratulations!

Blessed Sacrament Church: 3127 James St Syracuse, NY 13206 315-473-3394 E-mail: bscoffice@bscstv syr.org	St. Vincent De Paul Church: 342 Vine St Syracuse, NY 13203 315-479-6689 E-mail: stvoffice@bscstv syr.org
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