

## ODDS and ENDS

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish - Queensbury, NY

### READING & READERS

Using the book, "TOGETHER FOR LIFE" you will need to pick out readings. Normally the first reading is taken from the OLD TESTAMENT [B section] followed by a second reading from the NEW TESTAMENT [D section]. The Gospel may or may not be chosen by you [F section].

The 2 readings should be read by someone other than the priest -- perhaps there is a family member or friend who is already a lector and would like to do this.

The Readers should be prepared to read at the rehearsal. A copy of the readings will be provided in large print. They may take these with them to practice -- however, at the wedding a duplicate copy will be provided. Therefore they should not bring a loose sheet of paper with them to read from.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

The prayer of the faithful [ J1 J2 J3 ] may be read by one of your readers or someone else. Father can also do this in the event you have no one. Additional petitions for those who have died may be added. You may also decide to write your own based on the samples given in the book, "TOGETHER FOR LIFE"

### UNITY CANDLE

If you do use a candle as part of your wedding ceremony, the couple lights the 2 candles together to light the larger one. The candle(s) is/are placed on a small table by the Lectern.

Please note that this is totally an option -- and not something that is part of the Roman Catholic Rite of Marriage. There is no history to this practice, but has recently come into existence. Unfortunately, it seems to be one more way to make money at a wedding. The real symbol of unity is the Wedding Ring.

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

- Must be obtained from any city clerk's office in New York State. Some offices have specific office hours when you can obtain the license – check on this ahead of time.
- There is a fee.
- Both the Bride and Groom must be present to obtain the license
- It is dated and timed. The License is **valid for 2 months, not valid for the first 24 hours.**

## **WEDDING REHEARSAL**

The Marriage license should be presented to the priest the night of the rehearsal. The two witnesses will be asked to sign the license that night. It is the clergyman's responsibility to verify the actual marriage ceremony took place and return the license to the town or city clerk.

Participants in the wedding ceremony should be present for the rehearsal ... those doing the readings, Eucharistic Ministers, etc. Musicians are not part of the rehearsal.

Usually the rehearsal is scheduled the evening before the marriage day. Promptness is appreciated, often times there may be other rehearsals or Church related activities scheduled after the rehearsal. Usually it takes ½ hour.

To adequately prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, Catholics are strongly encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the time of the wedding. The priest would be available for this sacrament the night of the rehearsal.

## **FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS / RUNNER**

- Floral arrangements are to be made directly by the couple with the florist.
- We ask the couple not to take the flowers from the church to the reception.

- If there is a second wedding that day, we encourage the brides to get together for the cost of the flowers.
- Flower girls are **NOT to drop petals** (real or fake) down the aisle.
- A runner is permitted although **not recommended** – the length needed is 75 yards.

### **ENTRANCE PROCESSION**

When everyone is ready, Father will announce that the congregation should stand and greet the Bridal Party. **Only one song is used for this procession** ... which is not a fashion show. The Bride escorted by her father enters the Church after the Bridal party as part of the procession. The Bride **does not have a separate song** played for her entrance.

**The front doors of the Church are not to remain open** ... we have air conditioning. Sometimes the Photographer will open them ... be sure then are closed before coming down the aisle.

### **BRIDAL PARTY**

- You need to decide **how you will line up those in the Bridal party**. You need to do this ahead of time! They will be seated in the 2nd [and 3rd] pews. Parents are in the first. The Maid-Matron of honor, Best Man, Bride and Groom are seated in the sanctuary.
- Please note that there can only be **2 witnesses to the ceremony** = State requirement. You do not have to have the traditional Best Man / Maid-Matron of Honor -- but **only 2 people must sign** the marriage license.
- **NO CHILDREN UNDER 6** years old should be in the procession.
- If using a runner, please assign 2 of the ushers (or someone else) to unroll this before the Bridal party advances down the aisle.

## RECEIVING LINE

Some couples choose to greet their guests at the reception and spend the time having pictures taken in the church. Others like to have a receiving line.

No matter what the preference, most members of the bridal party do not know all of the invited guests, nor will they see them again. Therefore, **in the receiving line we ask that just the Bride and Groom with their parents** form a line at the back of the church. The rest of the bridal party is free to stand outside and greet those people they know. This makes it much easier on those present.

## CLEAN UP

If you haven't assigned the following tasks to an usher or ushers, then someone should be assigned:

- Remove, pack and take the Unity Candle [if using one]
- Roll up the runner after the ceremony -- we can discard for you.
- Pick up remaining booklets [if used] from back of church and pews - as well as anything else brought in -- boxes for flowers, etc. -- and take them with you.