

## **Wedding Guidelines**

### **St. Gilbert Church**

#### **Scheduling**

Congratulations and God bless you on your engagement! We're delighted that you've chosen to celebrate your marriage here at St Gilbert Church, and our clergy and staff are pleased to assist with your wedding plans. Weddings take place on Saturday afternoon at 12 PM, and 2:30 PM, in either the Church or the Chapel. Friday weddings may take place at 4 PM, with the permission of the Pastor; Sunday weddings may take place at 2:30 PM with the permission of the Pastor. The date and time that you select for your wedding are subject to final approval by the priest or deacon assisting with your arrangements.

#### **Planning and Preparation**

The Church has great interest in helping couples to build sound and lasting marriages on the foundation of Christ and his Gospel, and the Church's apostolic tradition. For this reason, we require engaged couples to participate in a program of sacramental marriage preparation. The priest or deacon arranging your wedding will explain the various options available and help you select the program that best suits your individual needs.

#### **Fees**

The customary offering to St Gilbert Church on the occasion of your wedding is \$500. Fees for wedding musicians such as keyboardists, cantors and other accompanists, are additional. The usual stipend offered to an officiating priest or deacon from outside the parish is additional, as well.

#### **Music**

Wedding music is arranged in consultation with the Director of Music Ministry, Mark Konchan, who will guide you in making appropriate choices. All instrumentalists and singers are engaged exclusively through the Director of Music Ministry, and all musical selections for your wedding are subject to the Director's final approval. Soon after your wedding has been scheduled and you have met with a priest or deacon, please make an appointment with the Director of Music Ministry to discuss music arrangements.

#### **Wedding Liturgy**

Every wedding is both a sacramental celebration of your committed love and a service of divine worship. Therefore all weddings will conform to the rules and text of the Church's Order of Celebrating Matrimony. The vows exchanged will come from that text, as well.

## **Flowers and Decorations**

Because the Church organizes its life of prayer around a liturgical calendar that spans the entire year, our Church and Chapel are usually decorated to reflect the nature of each particular season. Accordingly, wedding decorations should be simple and tasteful. Flowers should be limited to two arrangements on either side of the altar in the sanctuary, and if you wish, a single arrangement for the base of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, just to the left of the sanctuary. Your florist will have access to the Church or Chapel 90 minutes prior to the wedding liturgy. Immediately after the liturgy, all wedding decorations must be removed from the Church or Chapel. For safety and aesthetic reasons, aisle runners are not permitted. Also, trellises and candles or candelabras on candle stands in the aisles or sanctuary, are not permitted.

## **Rehearsal**

A rehearsal is scheduled for every wedding and takes place one or two days before the liturgy, at an appointed time between 5 PM and 7 PM, in the Church or Chapel. The rehearsal is conducted by the Parish Wedding Coordinators along with the officiating priest or deacon, and most rehearsals last about one hour.

## **Photography and Videography**

You may engage a professional photographer or videographer for your wedding liturgy. Photographers and videographers should arrive at Church or Chapel at least one hour before the liturgy. Because of the sacred nature of the marriage rite, flash photography is not permitted during the liturgy. Photographers and videographers should avoid moving about from place to place, and they are not permitted to enter the sanctuary at any time during the liturgy.