"There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 13.4-13

## Prayer of an Engaged Couple

We praise you, Heavenly Father, for your gentle plan drew us, your children, together in love for one another.

Strengthen our hearts, so that we will keep faith with each other, please you in all things, and so come to the happiness of celebrating the sacrament of their marriage. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



...there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. - John 2:1-2, NAB



PREPARATION GUIDELINES
to celebrate the
SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Saint Pius X Church 3010 Chili Avenue Rochester, New York 14624 585-247-2566

## The peace of Christ be with you and congratulations on your engagement!

- I. TO BEGIN THE PROCESS, please call for an initial interview with the Pastoral Associate to discuss the Sacrament of Matrimony. This will include:
  - + Your eligibility to marry in the Catholic Church
  - + Your current relationship with the Church and Saint Pius X Parish
  - + Requirements to prepare for the Sacrament (Pre-Cana, Fully Engaged)
  - + Setting the date and time for your wedding ceremony and rehearsal (No dates can be set before this meeting) Wedding Ceremonies are usually held on Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
  - + Theology and Spirituality of Marriage and life together as a married couple
- II. Like all Church sacraments, marriage is celebrated in the context of the Word of God, witnessed by a priest or deacon on behalf of the Church and the State, during the Liturgy of the Word or during the Mass. The deacon or priest witnessing your marriage will discuss with you these options.
- III. The Wedding Ceremony is a prayer of the Church and the community gathered for the celebration of this sacrament. The Rite of Marriage includes options for music, readings from Sacred Scripture, the exchange of vows, blessing of rings, prayers of petition and the nuptial blessing. Since this is a prayer of the community, we encourage you to make it possible for the congregation to participate as fully as possible.

## Notes

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	from your meetings with the Pastoral Associate and your Wedding and Music Coordinators
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The Church wants to be a part of your lives as a couple. We invite you to attend parish activities that offer on-going enrichment for you. We invite you to opportunities to share your gifts through volunteering.

The schedule of fees for your marriage ceremony are guided by the Diocese of Rochester. Included are the following:

- Standard Requested offering for Weddings for the Church
- Wedding Coordinator
- Music Coordinator
- Organist
- Cantor

The total fee amount is payable to Saint Pius X office one month before your wedding. Saint Pius X office will remunerate the coordinators and music ministers.

If you choose to use other vocalists, musicians, ensembles, they are independent contractors and you will pay them directly. There is no charge for the deacon or priest to preside at your

wedding. You may choose to gift them for their services.

## Checklist

 Meeting with Pastoral Associate
 Schedule meeting with Priest/Deacon presider
Meeting with Wedding Coordinator
Meeting with Music Coordinator
Complete "Fully Engaged" online
Register for Pre-Cana
Obtain Baptismal Certificate
 Obtain Confirmation Record
 Payment of fees to Church Office
Obtain Marriage License from Town Clerk

Choosing sacred music to help you and your guests to worship, pray and sing is an important part of your planning. The Wedding Music Coordinator will guide you in your music selections. The coordinator will also be able to help you connect with our parish organist and cantors. All music selections and outside musicians are overseen by the coordinator.

There will be a variety of readings from the Old and New Testament from which you can choose for your ceremony. Please consider choosing family members and/or friends, who are good readers and are comfortable speaking in front of people, to proclaim the Word of God. There will be two readings and the prayers of intercession which these readers will proclaim.

You may choose to provide flowers for your wedding ceremony. Flowers may be placed in front of the altar, in front of the ambo, in front of the statues of Mary and/or Joseph. Flowers are not placed on the altar. Pew bows or pew floral arrangements are permitted but must be attached <u>without tape</u> <u>or tacks</u>. They can be tied on with soft fabric, soft pipe cleaners or ribbons. Flowers are visual accents for a wedding ceremony and not center pieces. They should enhance your ceremony and not distract from it.

You may choose to create a wedding program for your guests. It will guide them through the ceremony. It will help to enhance their prayer experience.

If you choose to have a photographer for your ceremony, please advise them that there are some guidelines for them to follow. See the Letter to the Photographer.

They will need to be in contact with the Wedding Coordinator either at the rehearsal or thirty minutes prior to the wedding ceremony.

After the Ceremony, the wedding party has thirty minutes for posed photos. If more time is desired, please make alternative arrangements with your photographer to take pictures at another location.

If you choose to have a videographer for your ceremony, please advise them that there some guidelines for them to follow. They will need to be in contact with the Wedding Coordinator either at the rehearsal or thirty minutes prior to the wedding ceremony.

A Unity Candle is not a required part of your Wedding Ceremony. You may discuss this option with your Wedding Coordinator.

No balloons, confetti, rice, birdseed, petals or similar materials will be allowed before, during or after the ceremony in or around the church. Blowing bubbles is permitted outdoors in the parking lot after the ceremony.

Please advise your wedding party and guests that smoking, alcoholic beverages and drugs are strictly prohibited on church property and will not be tolerated at the rehearsal or at the wedding ceremony. If there is evidence of possession or use the ceremony may be postponed.

Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will lead the rehearsal and coordinate the wedding party before and during the ceremony.

The rehearsal will begin at the scheduled time. Rehearsals are usually scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Everyone taking part in the ceremony should plan on participating in the rehearsal.

Please bring to the rehearsal your Unity Candle and Programs if you are using them.

You must also bring your Marriage License to the rehearsal. The rehearsal cannot begin until the Wedding Coordinator has your Marriage License.

The Deacon/Priest presiding at your wedding ceremony is also acting as an agent of New York State. In order for the priest to preside at your ceremony, you must have a license from New York State.

A couple who intends to be married in New York State must apply in person for a marriage license to any town or city clerk in the state. The application for a license must be signed by both applicants in the presence of the town or city clerk. A representative cannot apply for the license on behalf of the applicant. This applies even if the representative has been given a Power of Attorney.

Notarized marriage license affidavits signed by the applicants cannot be substituted for their personal appearance.

Although the marriage license is issued immediately, the marriage ceremony may not take place within 24 hours from the exact time that the license was issued.

The 24-hour waiting period may be waived by a judge or justice of the Supreme Court of New York State or the county judge of the county in which either party to be married resides, or if such party is at least seventeen years of age, the judge of the Family Court of such county.

A marriage license is valid for 60 calendar days, beginning the day after it is issued.

After your wedding, we welcome you to worship with us here at Saint Pius X. If you are not already registered here, please contact the parish office to register. If you are already registered, please contact the parish office to update you registration card.