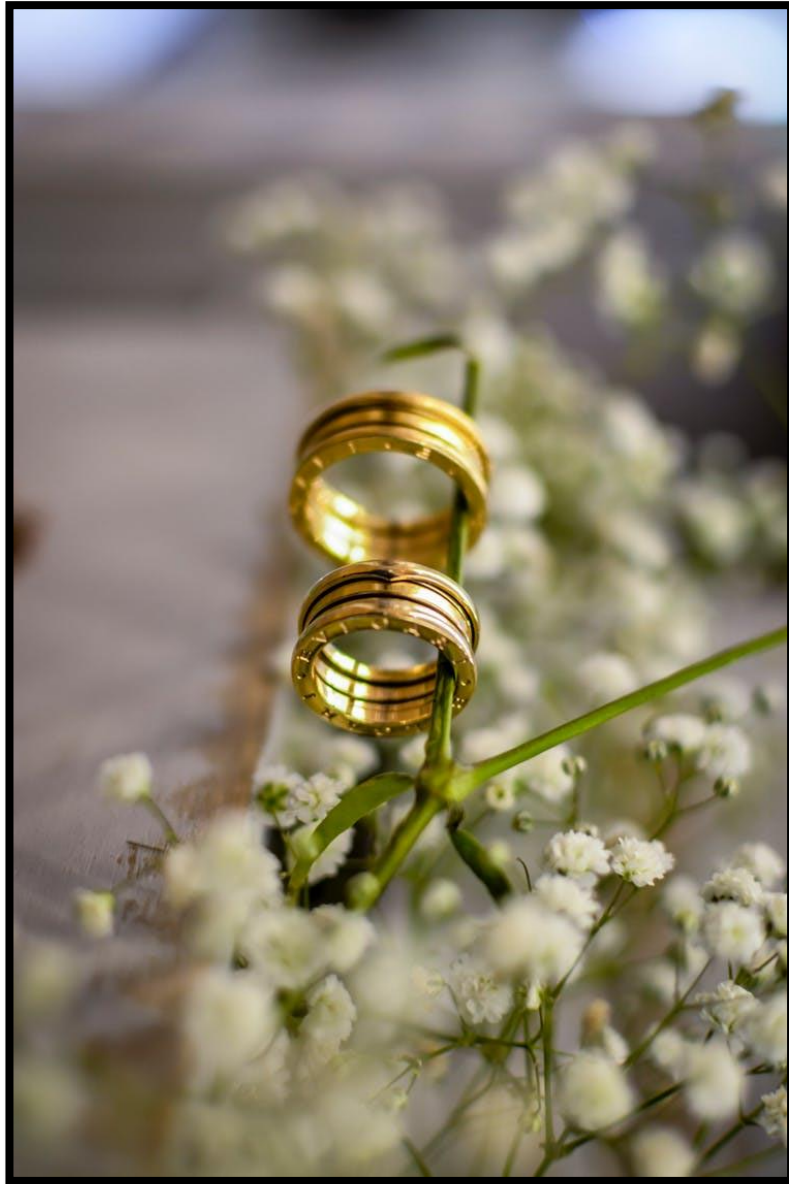


Ave Maria Parish

Our Lady of the Assumption & Saint Maria Goretti Churches



17 Grove Street
Lynnfield, MA 01940

www.avemarialynnfield.org

Congratulations on Your Engagement!

It is with great joy that we, your parish staff and ministry leaders, welcome you as you begin your preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. We are ready to assist you in making your marriage a lasting encounter with God. We present the following Archdiocesan and Parish Guidelines to assist you in preparing for marriage. We want your wedding day to be beautiful and pleasing in all of its arrangements. If we are able to assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to ask. Please be assured of our prayers and interest during this special time of your life. We pray that the Lord will bless you with much happiness and joy in your love for each other.

This booklet is designed to assist you with the planning of your Wedding Mass or Liturgy of the Word ceremony. The Wedding Mass would include Liturgy of the Word and reception of Communion along with the Rite of Marriage; whereas a Ceremony does not include receiving the Eucharist.

Prospective couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of their intended wedding date by e-mailing Janine Sano at jsano@ola-smg.org or calling 781-598-4313. A Priest or Deacon will contact you and confirm that you receive the necessary information and instruction. To be married at Ave Maria Parish, the bride and groom are usually members of the parish.

All couples are required to attend a Pre-Cana Program no later than six months prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. These days are designed to assist the couple in the Marriage preparation process and address issues central to a successful Christian Marriage. A complete list of Pre-Cana workshops is available through the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Boston:

<https://www.bostoncatholic.org/familylife>

Required Documents

Baptismal Certificate & Marriage License

Baptismal Certificate: Within six months before the marriage, both Bride and Groom must obtain a recently issued Baptismal certificate from the church in which the Baptism took place. This cannot be the original certificate or a copy of that certificate, but a standard (long) form which the Baptizing parish fills out. If one party is Christian but not Roman Catholic, a Baptismal certificate is still required. If one party has not been baptized, then the necessary dispensations are required as designated by the Priest or Deacon.

Marriage License: Both the prospective bride and groom must go together, in person, to any city or town clerk to fill out a marriage license application (also known as a Notice of Intention of Marriage) no more than 60 days before the wedding ceremony. In addition to paying the application fee (which varies by town), each person must bring proof of their age (a certified birth certificate, passport or other document as defined by [MGL Chapter 207, Section 33A](#)) and their Social Security number.

Once an application has been accepted, there is a three-day waiting period before you receive your marriage license. The license is then only valid for 60 days from the date the application was filed. In certain circumstances, one can seek to have the waiting period waived by filing a request for a [Marriage without Delay](#) with the probate court or district court in the city, town, or county where you originally applied for the license. If you are not married within the 60 days after your license was granted, you must apply for a new license. If either person was previously married, joined in a civil union, a registered domestic partnership, or other legally binding relationship recognized by another state, this relationship must be legally dissolved (meaning your divorce must be final) before applying for a Massachusetts marriage license.

After the wedding ceremony is complete, whomever you chose to perform the ceremony must sign and return your marriage license to the city or town clerk where it was issued so it can be legally recorded.

Sacramental Information

Sacramental Requirements & Planning

Six months prior to the wedding date, all couples are required to meet with the Priest or Deacon who will officiate at their wedding. At this meeting, the couple will focus their intentions, be instructed of necessary documents, plan the liturgy and prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

It is the responsibility of the couple that all necessary paperwork is completed and returned to the parish office one month prior to the wedding date. This paperwork includes: The Archdiocese of Boston Forms, recently issued Baptismal certificates and Confirmation certificates for the Bride and Groom, Pre-Cana certificate, and all necessary dispensation forms as designated by the Priest or Deacon presiding at the marriage celebration.



Liturgical Information

Wedding and Rehearsal Guidelines

The Catholic wedding: While allowing for certain personal preferences, the wedding liturgy follows certain prescribed norms. Couples may select readings and music for the liturgy.

- *Choosing Scripture readings:* One reading from the Old Testament is chosen along with one reading from the New Testament. Please give the name/s of the readers to the wedding coordinator.
- *Choosing music:* There are many hymns that are available to you. A list of suggested hymns is provided for you at the back of this booklet.

Reading Selections:

First Reading: Old Testament Selections (One Reader)

Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a

Genesis 2: 18-24

Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67

Tobit 7: 6-14

Tobit 8: 4b – 8

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16

Jeremiah 31: 31-32a, 33-34a

Reading Selections Cont.:

Second Reading: New Testament Selections (One Reader)

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18 (Long version)

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13 (Short version)

Romans 15: 1b-3a, 5-7, 13

1 Corinthians 6: 13c-15a, 17-20

1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 8a

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 (Long version)

Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 (Short version)

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

1 Peter 3:1-9

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-12

Revelation 19: 1, 5-9a

Universal Prayer (One Reader)

By the time of the rehearsal, all liturgical plans must be finalized. Please bring the following to the rehearsal in two separately marked envelopes:

1. Marriage License
2. Suggested donation to the Church is \$700.00. Fees for Music Ministry and Rehearsal Coordinator is \$500.00. We recommend you write a single check for \$1,200.00 made out to Ave Maria Parish. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please talk with one of the priests.

Wedding & Rehearsal Dates:

Marriages are normally celebrated during the following times:

Saturdays: 11:00am 1:30pm 5:30pm

Sundays: 2:00pm (except the second Sunday of the month, which is unavailable for weddings due to scheduled Baptisms).

The couple is responsible to secure, for wedding and rehearsal, the date, time and location.

Rehearsal Guidelines:

- a. Arrive at the rehearsal on time. The rehearsal will begin whether or not the entire wedding party has arrived. Remind your bridal party to consider traffic issues when they are deciding on a time to depart for the rehearsal.
- b. Children under 7 (seven) years of age must be accompanied by a parent or an older child. They cannot process down the aisle alone or with another child under the age of 7. Past experiences have proven young children are often frightened walking alone with hundreds of adults watching them.
- c. Readers are to be present at the rehearsal. They will be given the opportunity to rehearse their reading in order to become comfortable with both the reading and our sound system. Your reader(s) should be reminded to:
 - i. Stand tall and do not lean into the microphone;
 - ii. Speak slowly;
 - iii. The Lectionary (book of Scripture) or a Liturgical Binder will be opened to the correct Reading, and a parish minister will point to the reading. Do not carry Sacred Scripture in your hands or pull it out of your pocket;
 - iv. Dress appropriately for church.

Environmental Guidelines:

The liturgical environment is designed to reflect the season in which we are celebrating. During the season of Advent, very simple greenery is allowed (no flowers). During the season of Lent, no flowers or greenery of any kind are allowed in the sanctuary or throughout the church. We ask that you make precise arrangements with your florist regarding the delivery of flowers and “clean up” after the wedding. The florist should deliver flowers for the wedding party to the front entrance of the church.

The parish does not have “on call” custodial staff. In keeping with the nature and dignity of the Church, we ask you to refrain from the use of artificial flowers. If more than one couple is being married on the same day, they may wish to use the same flowers. We ask that flowers remain in the Church after the Celebration.

Pew decorations must be tied. We have found that bows/flowers are most secure when tied to the pews. Tape is not allowed.

To ensure your personal safety and the safety of your guests, the use of an aisle runner is not permitted.

Please refrain from using rose petals, rice, confetti, birdseed, or bubbles. This is applicable to both inside and outside the church.

Guidelines for Photographers and Videographers:

The photographers/videographers must check in with the wedding coordinator the day of the wedding to ensure that he/she knows their role in the ceremony. We ask that such people respect the nature and the dignity of your celebration and the Church. Photographers are asked to comply with the policy outlined below:

Photographers are allowed to:

- ✓ *Take photographs of the guests as they arrive*
- ✓ *Take photographs of the ushers escorting the guests to their pew*
- ✓ *Take photographs of the parents and grandparents as they are escorted to their pew*
- ✓ *Take photographs of the procession, readers, ceremony, presentation of the gifts*
- ✓ *Take photographs of the recessional*
- ✓ *Take photographs in the church after the wedding if arrangements have been made ahead of time for the availability of the space.*
- ✓ *Stand in the doorway of the sacristy, not in the sanctuary (holy space)*

Videographers are allowed to:

- ✓ *Take videos as discussed ahead of time with the couple and the wedding coordinator*
- ✓ *Take videos from the choir loft*

General Guidelines and Information:

Altar Servers:

Two Altar Servers will be assigned to assist at the wedding liturgy. If you have relatives or friends who will be serving, please inform the priest or deacon.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Catholics are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the celebration of their marriage. Confessions are heard in the Church on Saturdays from 3:00pm – 3:45pm and by appointment.

Visiting Clergy:

A visiting priest or deacon is welcome to witness your marriage; however, one of the parish priests should assist the couple with instructions before the marriage. Visiting Clergy from out of state are reminded that they must secure permission from the Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A welcoming letter from the parish will be sent to the visiting presider including the parish guidelines for the celebration of weddings.

Use of Alcohol:

Use of alcohol on the premises of St. Maria Goretti Church or Our Lady of the Assumption Church is prohibited on the day of the rehearsal and the day of your Wedding liturgy.

Unity Candle:

The use of the unity candle is not included in the Roman Catholic rite of marriage, though it is a wonderful option to be used at your reception.

Wagons, Carts, Carriages:

To ensure the personal safety of children, the use of wagons, carts or carriages, to move children inside the church or in procession is not permitted.

Reception:

Due to weekend schedules and other duties, please do not assume that the priest or deacon will be able to attend the reception. If you wish him to attend, please inform him in writing and he will respond according to his other duties and commitments.

Registration:

After you have settled into your new home, please make yourselves known to your parish staff and register as a member of the parish in which you reside.

The Wedding Mass

Music and Wedding Day Guidelines

Please e-mail your final selections to Gina Kolenda, Director of Music at Ave Maria Parish at least six (6) weeks before your wedding date at gkolenda@ola-smg.org, or call her at 781-598-4313, ext. 204.

Music:

The music, when it is in harmony with other ritual elements, fosters a spirit of prayer and celebration and strengthens the expression of faith.

When parish ministers guide a couple in the selection of music that supports and enhances the ritual, they share with them a desire to provide true hospitality for those who will gather. In other words, music ministers and the couple have the same goal of wanting to provide a setting where the guests will feel comfortable and welcomed.

It is the policy at Ave Maria Parish that a parish keyboardist and a cantor (leader of song) are engaged to provide music for your wedding liturgy. It is the role of the cantor or minister in the primary forms of pastoral music making, singing psalms, hymns and acclamations.

Throughout the wedding liturgy, a cantor will always be present to lead the assembly in song. Ave Maria Parish is blessed to have a richly talented music ministry team with excellent keyboardists, cantors, and even a highly experienced professional violinist. On occasion, the wedding couple may want to use an outside organist or vocalist. If the couple wishes to have their own singer, this person may sing only appropriate and approved liturgical music at selected times during the liturgy. It is advised that, unless the outside vocalist is a trained cantor, the couple still use the services of the parish cantor and ask their vocalist to sing only during the Prelude of Meditation/Reflection portions of the Wedding Liturgy or Ceremony. If the outside vocalist or organist is a trained cantor/organist, a parish cantor/organist will not need to be engaged nor a fee paid.

The Director of Music is available to help you select and must approve your final music selections and musician. Please contact the Director of Music at least 6 weeks prior to your wedding for guidance, planning, or to let her know what music you have in mind. The wedding couple may wish to engage a trumpeter, violinist, flutist, harpist, oboe player or other instrumentalist(s). We welcome these musicians to our parish. The Director of Music will have names to suggest. It is our policy of the parish that all instrumentalist(s) need to contact the wedding organist to arrange a

musical rehearsal prior to the start of the wedding liturgy. Restrictions may apply during this time of COVID-19, but can be discussed with the Director of Music to make the most suitable arrangements according to current guidelines.

Contact Information for Gina Kolenda, Director of Music:

Office Phone: 781-598-4313, ext. 204; Cell Phone: 781-367-2535

Email: gkolenda@ola-smg.org

In order to help you with choosing appropriate and beautiful music for your Wedding Mass or Ceremony, we have compiled a guide to music selections with a range of style. (See the end of this document). Song links are included so you may listen on YouTube to help you make your choices. Our Director of Music and Parish Ministers are here for you to guide you in making your musical selections and answer questions as they arise.

Wedding Day Guidelines:

The groom, best man, and groomsmen are to arrive 30 minutes prior to the wedding ready to seat guests. It is expected Ushers will be available and ready as guests arrive.

The bride arrives 15 minutes before the Mass/Ceremony, dressed. She may wait in the room provided by the parish off the main entrance of the church.

The rings cannot be tied to the ring bearer's pillow. The satin ribbon is slippery and easily comes untied resulting in the rings falling off and rolling away.

The bride and attendants arrive dressed and ready to process.

Children are to be supervised at all times during the wedding. If they become disruptive, they should be taken out of the church. There are many areas outside of the worship space, such as the church hall. Your rehearsal coordinator will advise you of these locations if you expect young children at your wedding.

No members of the bridal party should be chewing gum.

No one should be drinking alcohol prior to the wedding.

If either the groom or bride appears under the influence, the priest cannot perform the wedding. It will be cancelled.

Ave Maria Parish

Music Suggestions for Weddings

Prelude:

See the many beautiful suggestions below. You may select up to 20 minutes of prelude music. If you prefer not to make specific selections, the organist/keyboardist will play appropriate Prelude music.

Introductory Rite

Seating of the Mothers

Choose one. Here are the most popular choices, but others are included below

Ave Maria (Franz Schubert): [Vocal](#); [Piano Solo](#); [Violin](#)

[Hail Mary, Gentle Woman](#)

Wedding Party Processional

Choose one. Here are the most popular choices, but others are included below

[Trumpet Voluntary](#) (Clarke)

[Trumpet Voluntary](#) (Purcell)

[Canon in D](#) (Pachabel)

Procession of the Bride

Choose one. Here are the most popular choices, but others are included below

[Bridal March](#) (Jonathan Cain)

[Canon in D](#) (Pachabel)

[Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring](#) (Bach)

[Rondeau](#) (Mouret)

Responsorial Psalm

Choose one.

[Blest Are Those Who Love You](#) (Haugen)

[How Good is the Lord to All](#) (LaRosa)

[The Goodness of the Lord](#) (Soper)

The Lord is My Shepherd (Blakesley)

This is the Day (Joncas)

This is the Day (Hart)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia (Mass of Christ the Savior)

Verse: All who live in love live in God and God in them.

Alleluia (Mass of Restoration)

Verse: All who live in love live in God and God in them.

Presentation of the Gifts

Choose one. Here are some appropriate choices. You may also like some choices from the “Communion” section below too.

All I Ask of You (Norbet)

I Have Loved You (Joncas)

Prayer of St. Francis (Make me a Channel of Your Peace)

Servant Song

Where Love is Found (Schutte)

Communion Songs

If your Wedding is a Mass, please choose one. Here are some appropriate choices for Communion.

Age to Age

Amazing Grace

Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring (Bach)

I Have Loved You (Joncas)

Love Divine All Loves Excelling (Hyfrydol)

Love One Another (Dufford)

Love Goes On (Farrell)
Many and One (Agrisano)

One Bread, One Body

O Perfect Love (Barnby)

Panis Angelicus (Frank)

Sing a New Song (Schutte)

Table of Plenty (Schutte)

Reflection Songs:

If your wedding is a Mass, please choose one to be sung as a meditation after Communion. Also, if you would like a song after the exchange of rings (especially if your service is not a Mass), here are some very appropriate choices. We aim to guide you toward songs that are liturgically appropriate. Other songs might be best reserved for your Reception.

All That We Have Seen (Hart)

Be Thou My Vision

Bridal Prayer (Copeland)

Goodness Love and Mercy (Tomlin)

One Thing Remains (Redman/Stanfill)

Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts

The Blessing/Irish Blessing (Elevation Worship)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (See 4:03 of the video)

Wedding Song “There is Love” (Stookey)

Recessional

Be My Heart Ever Faithful (Bach)

La Rejouissance (Handel)

Ode to Joy (L. Beethoven)

Wedding March (Mendelssohn)

**Additional Music Suggestions for:
Preludes, Entrances & Recessionals**
Spring (Vivaldi)

Arioso (J.S. Bach)

Ave Maria (Bach/Gounot)

Piano Only

With solo instrument

With singer

Canon in D (Pachelbel)

For the Beauty of the Earth (Kocher)

Hornpipe from Water Music Suite (Handel)

March from Judas Maccabaeus (Handel)

Prelude to Te Deum (Charpentier)

Prince of Denmark March (Jeremiah Clarke)

Rondeau from Symphony of Fanfares (Mouret)

Sheep May Safely Graze (Bach)

Trumpet March (Lully)

Trumpet Tune (Purcell)

Trumpet Tune in D (Johnson)

Trumpet Voluntary (Andante) (Stanley)

