

Divine Mercy Parish
12 Church Street
Peterborough, NH 03458
(603) 924-7647
As of August 2011



WEDDING POLICIES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Suggested Offering- \$200

The couple MUST meet with Father Mike prior to booking the wedding.

The wedding offering is payable at any time, BUT NO LATER THAN the last appointment you have with Fr. Mike. Please keep this in mind. It is embarrassing to all concerned to have to discuss the offering at the rehearsal, or worse still, on your wedding day!

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN MARRIED BEFORE? EITHER IN A CHURCH WEDDING OR EVEN A CIVIL CEREMONY? If so, you must discuss your situation with Fr. Mike before making any concrete plans for a wedding. This **applies to non-Catholics as well as Catholics.**

Washington, DC 20017
(301) 853-0400

WHAT CHURCH RECORDS ARE NEEDED?

- A Catholic must have a **recently issued** copy of his/her Baptism certificate. Sorry, but the Baptism certificate issued at the time of Baptism is not adequate. If you have been confirmed, please get verification of this fact from the appropriate Catholic Church.
- A non-Catholic is asked to obtain some verification of her/his Baptism, if this is at all possible.
- It is possible for a non-baptized person to be married in the Catholic Church, assuming that the fiancé(e) is a baptized Catholic, and both persons are free to marry according to Church law.
- If either party is widowed, the death certificate of the deceased spouse must be presented.
- If neither party lives within the boundaries of Divine Mercy parish, a **letter of permission** to perform the marriage from the pastor of the church you currently attend, must be obtained.
- If you were baptized while your parents were in the Military Service, there is one source for obtaining your Baptismal certificate, regardless of which branch of service or where in the world you were baptized! Here is the address:

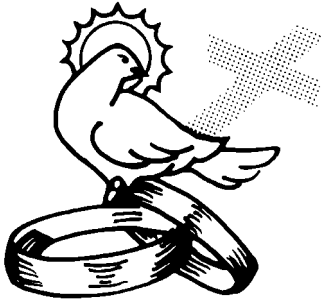
Archdiocese for the Military Service
PO Box 4469

YOU ALSO MUST HAVE A LICENSE TO BE MARRIED. The license is obtained from the Town Hall. If you are residents of New Hampshire, you may obtain the license from the town in which you live. Non-residents must obtain the license from the town in which the ceremony will take place. The phone number for the Town of Peterborough is (603) 924-8000.

MUSIC

Our organist is: Kathleen Sumner (603-352-0041). In addition, we have a contemporary music group under the direction of Ray Wesoly (603-547-2670) and a guitarist, Mary Armstrong (603-827-3985).

BECAUSE THE WEDDING CEREMONY IS A SACRED EVENT HELD IN A SACRED PLACE, ALL MUSIC MUST BE RELIGIOUS AND DIGNIFIED. A wide selection of music, either in traditional or contemporary style is available. Popular and non-religious music is generally considered inappropriate for the service and should be reserved for the reception. When musicians from outside the parish are employed, keep in mind that they must have a good repertoire of religious music to play prior to and during the ceremony.



PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

Professional photographers/videographers are always welcome. Picture taking and video recording during the ceremony is fine. However, photographers/videographers are **not allowed in the sanctuary area during the course of the ceremony. Video cameras on a tripod are not allowed in the sanctuary**, but may be set-up elsewhere in the Church.

IF PROFESSIONALS ARE NOT USED, BE SURE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH FR. MIKE.

FLOWERS

Flowers are allowed most anywhere, **except on the Altar of Sacrifice, and directly in front of the tabernacle.** If you are not sure where these areas are, just ask for clarification. Flower arrangements should be planned in such a way as not to hinder movement around the altar and in front of it (where you will stand to exchange your vows). Flower arrangements with candles or candelabra without "followers" will not be allowed. NO AISLE RUNNER or "thrown" flower petals are allowed in the aisle.

PUNCTUALITY

It is very important that weddings start ON TIME, especially on days when other services are scheduled. Be sensitive to your guests who are waiting in the Church. Also, the priest and organist often have other commitments the same day.

ENGAGED COUPLES SEMINAR

Engaged couples must participate in either an Engaged Couples Seminar, Engaged Encounter, Pre-Cana, or the like. These will be explained to you at your first meeting with the priest preparing you for the Sacrament.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Any couple who **takes a Church wedding seriously ought to be attending Church on a REGULAR BASIS.** The whole idea behind a Church wedding and the Sacrament of Marriage is to ask for *God's blessing upon your vowed life together.*

If worshipping God is not a regular part of your spiritual diet before and after your wedding day, it makes little sense to ask God to *magically* bless you on that occasion. **Please give this your careful and prayerful consideration.**

REHEARSAL & WEDDING DAY: PLEASE BE ON TIME!

Appropriate demeanor is expected of persons attending the rehearsal and wedding. **REMEMBER** that the Church is a sacred place.

PLEASE!! NO CONFETTI OR BIRD SEED. NO flowers, flower petals, etc., inside or outside the Church as there is no custodian on weekends! Please be respectful of Fr. Mike's schedule! The rehearsal and ceremony should begin at the appointed time.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Catholics preparing to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage ought to plan on celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) shortly before the wedding day. You may contact any priest about this. If you would like to incorporate this into the rehearsal time, please discuss this with Fr. Mike so that he will be prepared to accommodate you.

