

Congratulations!

We share the joy of your engagement and look forward to celebrating your wedding with you and asking God's blessing upon your married life. We hope that working with the parish and its personnel will be the easiest and happiest part of your wedding planning.

In the Catholic Church, marriage between two baptized persons is a Sacrament—a sign of God's loving presence. Asking to be married in the Church is to signify your desire to make God a part of your marriage, family life and home. It assumes that at least one party of the marriage is a practicing Catholic and a registered, participating member of our parish. Though to have received the Sacrament of Confirmation is **not** required to be married in the Catholic Church, it is strongly encouraged. If a Catholic partner has not been Confirmed, this might be done before or after the wedding.

The Archdiocese of Boston, like every Catholic diocese in the United States, requires that couples participate in a **Marriage Preparation program** ("Pre-Cana") before marriage. Locally, two excellent programs are available at **St. Basil's in Methuen** (978-683-2929) and **Espousal Center in Waltham** (781-209-3120). A directory of additional programs available in our archdiocese is at their website: <http://www.bostoncatholic.org/MarriageMinistries/>. Please register for a Marriage Preparation program at one of these places as soon as possible. After your participation you will be given a Certificate of Completion which you may bring to the parish.

Your wedding date and time can be confirmed **only** after meeting with the priest or deacon who will witness your vows. You should make an appointment to meet with the parish priest or deacon as soon as possible. Before the first meeting with the priest or deacon, baptized Catholics and all baptized Christians should have a recent copy (dated within six months) of your **Baptism Certificates** mailed to the rectory. Please phone or write the church where you were baptized and ask them to do this for you.

At your first meeting with the priest or deacon you will complete some preliminary paperwork and the various options available for your wedding ceremony will be explained. You are welcome to invite relatives or friends to do the Scripture readings, various prayers, etc. The priest or deacon will be happy to answer any questions and help in any way.

**Outside priests and non-Catholic clergy** are welcome to participate in your wedding ceremony. Out of state clergy must request prior authorization from the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to perform a wedding in Massachusetts. If you would like to invite an outside priest or minister, please mention this to the priest or deacon at your first meeting.

**Rehearsals** are scheduled subject to the availability of the church because of liturgies or other events. You should schedule your rehearsal as soon as possible by phoning the Parish Office of the church where your wedding will take place (see back page for phones). A rehearsal need not last longer than 30-45 minutes. **Please bring to the rehearsal: your marriage license, your selection of prayers and readings, the balance of your offering for the parish and the coordinator's \$100.00 rehearsal fee.**

**Making an offering to the Church** has become extremely important in these days of rising costs of maintaining the church. The customary offering for the support of the parish where your wedding will take place is **\$450**, payable in two installments, **\$225** at your first meeting with the priest or deacon, and **\$225** at your rehearsal. We are very grateful for your generous consideration in this regard, but please know the inability to make an offering will never affect the service you may expect from the Church.

**Music** is an important part of a wedding ceremony. Our music ministers will help you select music that is both beautiful and appropriate for use in church. **Additional musicians** are also available. The names and phones of the music ministers are on the back page of this leaflet. Please consult the insert for the schedule of fees set by the musicians. Fees are negotiated directly with them and must be forwarded to them one week prior to your wedding date.

**Photographers and videographers** are welcome and are asked to consult with the priest or deacon before the ceremony. Photographers and videographers must remain outside the sanctuary area but if it is necessary for them to move about, they should do so very discreetly and not draw attention away from the bride and groom. They should also remember they are attending a worship service.

Flower petals, confetti or rice may not be used inside the church nor on the church steps, and for safety reasons, runners are not permitted. We also ask that the environment prepared by church personnel please not be disturbed.

May God bless you during your exciting days of planning and preparing. May your love and joy continue to grow deeper and stronger as the years go by. And know that you will always be welcomed at St. Francis and St. Joseph Churches.

Contact information

**St. Joseph Parish**

114 High St.

Medford MA 02155

Parish Office: 781-396-0423

FAX: 781-391-2919

Parish email: [stjosephparishmedfordma@msn.com](mailto:stjosephparishmedfordma@msn.com)

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**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

441 Fellsway West

Medford MA 02155

Parish Office: 781-396-3400

FAX: 781-396-3254

Parish email: [saintfrancischurch@comcast.net](mailto:saintfrancischurch@comcast.net)

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**Music** (St. Joseph):

Ms. Betsy Pesce 781-391-1457

**Music** (St. Francis of Assisi):

Ms. Oksana Berezkina 617-504-0771

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**Wedding Coordinator:**

Rehearsal, Coordination at Ceremony, etc:

St. Joseph: Ms. Renee Paone 781-396-2877

St. Francis: Ms Susan Campbell 781-391-7374 (home)

OR 617-605-3048 (cell)

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**Marriage Preparation Programs (“Pre-Cana”)**

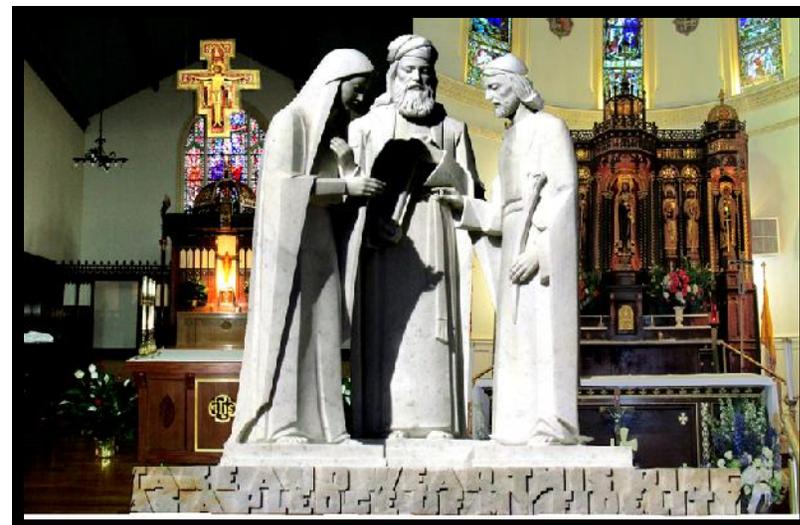
St. Basil’s, Methuen 978-683-2929

Espousal Center, Waltham 781-209-3103

Directory of other Marriage Prep programs:

<http://www.bostoncatholic.org/MarriageMinistries/>

## *Getting Married*



*at*

The Medford Catholic Collaborative of

*St. Joseph Church*

*St Francis of Assisi Church*

*Medford, Massachusetts*