



### Flowers

If any flowers are purchased for the wedding ceremony they are to be left in the church. Flowers are normally arranged in two pieces: one for each side of the altar or tabernacle, or one large arrangement in front of the altar. Artificial flowers are not permitted. NO flower petals, rice, confetti or birdseed may be thrown in or around the church. If pew bows are used they should be hooked or tied to the pews—no tape, tacks, nails, etc. may be used. It will be the responsibility of the bride and the groom to see to it that they are properly in place.

**Any decorations used in the church must be cleaned up and removed immediately following the wedding ceremony so the church is ready for Mass and other worship services.**

### Visiting celebrants

Ordinarily the priest or deacon of this parish will preside at weddings. If, for reasons of special relationships, a couple would like to invite another priest or deacon to preside at their wedding, they are free to do so. It is presumed that the visiting celebrant will adhere to the regulations of the Diocese of Manchester and the customs of this parish. He will also agree to be present for the wedding rehearsal and must submit a letter indicating that he is in agreement to preside at the wedding. If the visiting celebrant is from out of state, he must obtain the written permission (license) from the Secretary of State of New Hampshire and submit a letter of good-standing from his bishop or religious superior.

### Rehearsal

The rehearsal is usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding. It normally takes one hour. It is important that those who will have an active role in the ceremony be present at the rehearsal and arrive on time.

Please schedule rehearsal parties after the rehearsal. The celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation or confession is highly recommended for Catholics before their marriage. The pastor is available any time, even before the rehearsal, to explain and celebrate this sacrament.

### Bridal attire

Out of respect and reverence for the sacred space in which the wedding is taking place, we ask that all participants, especially the wedding party, observe modesty in their dress. Any attire that is not appropriate for a church can be supplemented by a veil, shawl or wrap.

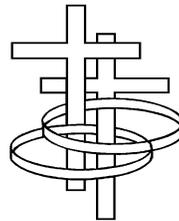
### Church donation

The following recommended minimum donations should be presented no later than the rehearsal:

For parishioners who are registered and active contributors for at least one year, prior to the initial contact: \$200.00

For non-parishioners (non-active, non-registered) at the time of initial contact: \$600.00

An offering for the priest or deacon is not included in the church donation and is left to the discretion of the couple.



### Gate of Heaven Parish

All Saints Church, Saint Matthew Church, Saint Agnes Church  
Saint Patrick Church & Our Lady of the Mountains Shrine

163 Main Street ❖ Lancaster, New Hampshire 03584

Office: (603) 788-2083 ❖ Fax: (603) 788-5553

E-mail: [gateofheavennh@aol.com](mailto:gateofheavennh@aol.com)

Website: [www.gateofheavennh.org](http://www.gateofheavennh.org)

# Gate of Heaven Parish Marriage Brochure

All Saints Church, Lancaster  
Saint Matthew Church, Whitefield  
Saint Agnes Church, Jefferson  
Saint Patrick Church, Twin Mountain  
Our Lady of the Mountains Shrine, Bretton Woods



“Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: *It is not good that man should be alone.* The woman who is *flesh of his flesh, his counterpart, his equal, his nearest in all things,* is given to him by God as his helpmate; woman represents God from whom comes our help. Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. The Lord shows that this signifies an unbreakable union on their two lives by recalling what the Creator had been in the beginning: *So they are no longer two, but one flesh.*” CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**W**eddings are a special time of joy and promise for brides and grooms, for their families and friends, and in an indirect way, for the entire parish community.

Indeed, our faith tells us that the reception of matrimony, where the bride and groom are themselves ministers of the sacrament, is a privileged and grace-filled time. It is a time, which foreshadows the great Marriage Feast of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to us his people, in the resurrection and eternal life. In view of its religious significance and life long importance, it is understandable that the celebration of marriage must be entered into with prayerful and responsible planning. These directives have been developed to guide and direct couples in solemnizing their marriages at Gate of Heaven Parish.

### *Who may marry in our parish?*

Marriages may be celebrated in this parish by either the bride or groom who has been a contributing member of Gate of Heaven Parish or by non-parishioners who have permission from their home parish.

### *General requirements*

The wedding is contingent upon completion of the following:

1. The prospective bride and groom must meet with the priest or deacon of the parish at least six months prior to the contemplated date of marriage.
2. If they have not been baptized at this parish, the bride and groom must obtain a recent (issued within six months of the time presented) Baptismal Certificate.
3. The engaged couple must meet with the priest or deacon to fill out the pre-nuptial questionnaire and ascertain their freedom to marry in the Catholic Church. This questionnaire is administered separately and includes biographical information and the intended spouses' testimony, under oath, concerning their intentions to enter a Christian marriage according to the teaching of the Church.



4. The bride and groom must attend Mass in a Catholic Church regularly (weekly and holy days of obligation); and attend an *Engagement Encounter* or the deanery *Toward Marriage Program*.
5. Finally, the couple will meet with the priest or deacon who will be present at their wedding to plan the wedding ceremony. The booklet, *Together for Life*, can assist you in planning out your ceremony. You can obtain one from the parish office.

If either party has been previously married be sure to advise the pastor so the proper paperwork or documentation may be attained to assure that your marriage can, in fact, take place in the Church. It is the responsibility of the couple to obtain the **CIVIL LICENSE**. You must apply for it together and in person at a town or city office anywhere in New Hampshire. The license is valid for ninety days, so do not wait until the last minute to apply. Drop it off at the parish office, and the priest will keep it in your marriage file. If you elect to keep it, **you must present it to the priest at your rehearsal.**

### *Time and place*

All marriages are normally solemnized in the parish churches at the following times: Friday evenings after 4:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Weddings celebrated during the Lenten Season (Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday), must be celebrated in a simple manner due to the special penitential character of that time in the Church. No date can be set until the couple has consulted in person with the priest or deacon. Dates cannot be set by calling the office.

**Please do not make any definite plans with a reception hall until your wedding date is confirmed by the priest or deacon.**

### *Should there be a Mass?*

It is presumed that all marriages between two Catholics will take place within the context of the Mass, providing the couple is actively practicing their faith. Inasmuch as the marriage ceremony should be a sign for all that unites the bridal couple, when one of them is not a member of the Catholic Church and would therefore be unable to receive Communion, the marriage normally will be celebrated within the context of the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word.



### *Music*

**In following the Diocesan Wedding Policy for music, only sacred church music may be used in Catholic weddings.** Secular or “popular” music should be saved for the reception. Musicians from the parish are available and should be contacted as soon as possible after the initial meeting. The musicians negotiate their own fees which are separate from the church fee, and they will help the couple select appropriate music for their ceremony. Outside musicians may be used only if they adhere to the requirements of the Catholic liturgy. Outside musicians and music must be approved by the priest or deacon.

#### **ORGANIST**

LOIS MCGEE (loismcgee365@gmail.com)

#### **ORGANIST/VOCALIST**

FRANK CARUSO (603) 991-6070 (northfrank@live.com)

#### **VOCALIST**

GEORGE BRODEUR (603) 991-3810 (gbrodeur@roadrunner.com)

#### **VOCALIST/GUITARIST**

KATHI MARSHALL (603) 837-9123 (gateofheavennh@aol.com)

#### **VOCALIST/GUITARIST**

VICTORIA CARUSO (603) 991-8908 (victoria.annette91@gmail.com)

#### **VOCALIST/GUITARIST**

Andy Nadeau (603) 616-9588

#### **VIOLINIST**

SUSAN OPENHOWSKI (Jopen53@gmail.com)