



# Saint Joan of Arc

## WEDDING PLANNING GUIDELINES

Dear Friends in Christ,

Congratulations on your engagement and thank you for inquiring about St. Joan of Arc Parish in Orleans, MA for your wedding ceremony. I hope and pray that your married life together will be filled with an abundance of love and joy.

The following guidelines will help you to know if you are a candidate to be married here at St. Joan of Arc:

- **Either the bride OR the groom must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic.**
- **Both the bride AND the groom must be free to marry in the Catholic Church according to Canon Law. This means that neither party has been previously married. If there IS a previous marriage, it must be declared null and void by a Church Tribunal before a wedding date can be set.**
- **Either the bride or the groom, or someone in their family, or extended family, should be an active, registered parishioner here at St. Joan of Arc. This may include relatives who reside here for part of the year, and worship with us when they are in the area. In addition, the bride and / or the groom must be an active, registered parishioner where they live. We will require a letter from the bride's or the groom's pastor confirming that they are practicing Catholics and giving us permission to perform their wedding ceremony here.**
- **If a couple has NO family connection with St. Joan of Arc, but at least ONE of them is a registered, practicing Catholic in the parish where they live, we will still consider celebrating their wedding here. This will also require a letter from the bride's or the groom's pastor confirming that they are practicing Catholics and giving us permission to perform their wedding ceremony here.**
- **When scheduling weddings, active, registered parishioners who are contributing members of this parish will be given first priority.**

**Please Note:** These wedding guidelines are presented with the understanding that the Church is not merely a building to be rented for an hour on a special occasion, but a Faith Community which gathers regularly to pray, to receive the Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, and to be strengthened to go forth and live as He taught. As such, those wishing to marry in the Church should be active members of that Faith Community.

If you meet the above criteria, and are interested in scheduling your wedding with us, please call the parish at 508-255-0170 to set up an initial meeting.

Peace,

Fr. John Kelleher