Rehearsal and Liturgy Planning Form

Three Processions Begin the Wedding:

Part I: The Seating of Grandparents, Step Parents and Parents
Part 2: The Procession of the Bridesmaids/Groomsmen, Children, Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man
Part 3: The Entrance of the Bride

Part I: Seating of Special Guests

Parents are seated behind the bridesmaids. Step Parents are seated behind the Parents. Grandparents can either be seated in the pew with the Parents – or in a separate pew. (Please know how you wish to do this when you come for the rehearsal.)

The Usher or Groomsman who is seating the first guest (Grandparent, Step Parent or Parent) should meet with (introduce himself to) the musician 30 minutes before the wedding, to synchronize the beginning of the processions.

When the wedding party is in place and it is time for the Special Seating to begin, the doors to W. 54th Street should be closed.

Order of Entrance for Special Guests: Grandparents

1. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________
2. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________
3. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________
4. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________

Order of Entrance for Special Guests: Step Parents/ Parents

1. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________
2. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________
3. ___________________________ seated by ___________________________
Part 2: Procession of Bridesmaids, Groomsmen and Children

If there are more than 5 bridesmaids, excluding the Maid of Honor, they will occupy the first two pews on left side of the aisle (Groomsmen on the right). Otherwise they will occupy only the first pew. Parents of Bride and Groom are seated in the pew immediately behind the Bridesmaids/groomsmen.

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<tr>
<th>Order of Entrance: Bridesmaids</th>
<th>Groomsmen</th>
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Flower Girl(s)/Junior Bridesmaid(s)  Ring-bearer(s)

| 1. __________________________ | __________________________ |
| 2. __________________________ | __________________________ |

Maid/Matron of Honor  Best Man

| __________________________ | __________________________ |

Processional of the Bridesmaids and Groomsmen:

- The Groom and the Best Man enter and stand in the front center of the church.
- Usually, the Bridesmaids enter one by one from the vestibule. The Groomsmen line up in the body of the church, and walk toward a Bridesmaid to meet them at the church divide. The Bridesmaid/Groomsmen partners then walk together to the front.
- Keep ½ of the aisle clear between each couple.
- If anyone stops, everyone stops -- to maintain that distance.
➢ When the couples arrive at the front of the church they will enter the front pews on their respective sides. Do not circle around the front pew. Simply enter the pew from the middle aisle.

➢ Children precede the Maid/Matron of Honor so that if there is a problem, she can resolve it. The Maid/Matron of Honor does not start up the aisle until the aisle is clear and the person preceding her has reached her seat. The Best Man will start down the aisle to meet the Maid of Honor after she passes the ½ point and they will walk together into the Sanctuary to their chairs.

Part 3: Entrance of the Bride

The Priest enters the sanctuary and asks the congregation to stand.

At this point two persons, not otherwise having a role in this part of the ceremony, can close the large wooden doors that separate the church from the vestibule while the Bride and her Father /Escort get situated for their entrance. When Best man and Maid of Honor have reached their place (and if there is a special wedding march, when it starts), the doors are opened for a “TA DA” moment and the bride enters. The doors then remain open.

Who will close and open the 2 large wooden doors:

1) ______________________________  2) ______________________________

B r i d e       F a t h e r  o f  B r i d e  o r  E s c o r t(s)

__________________________________ ____________________________ _______

Once the Bride and Groom are in the sanctuary, the Priest will guide the rest of the wedding ceremony, and give you cues as needed.

Important Notes:

Groomsmen and Ushers should arrive 45 minutes before the ceremony, to greet the guests, assist in seating them, and pass out programs (unless someone else has been appointed to do this.)

If the Bridal Party and the Groomsmen are sharing a limo that is making two trips, the men should arrive first. Be sure to budget your time so that everyone in the wedding party arrives at least 30 minutes prior to the wedding.

Everyone who has a role in the wedding (including readers, those presenting the offertory gifts) and those who are going to be specially seated at the beginning of the wedding should be in the Church 30-45 minutes before the wedding is to begin.
The Bride and her attendants enter through the front door (W. 54th). 5-10 minutes before the wedding is to begin, everyone should line up in the vestibule in the proper order. The Bride and her Bridesmaids should be in place in the church vestibule 5 minutes before the ceremony, at the very latest.

Do not leave anything of value in the club room (if using) during the wedding. Make sure all belongings are sent to a secure place (e.g., the limo) before coming into the Church! Someone should be given this responsibility when you are planning the wedding.

The Wedding Liturgy:

Note: The wedding couple should print copies of the First Reading, the Second Reading and the Prayers of the Faithful (composed by the couple) and bring these to the Rehearsal.

Is your ceremony:

Mass with Communion _______  OR  Shorter Ceremony without Communion _______

Will there be a Unity Candle? ___________________Yes  ________________No

Presentation to Mary? ________________________Yes  ________________No

Will you have a printed program? ______________Yes  ________________No

If YES, please bring a copy of your program to the rehearsal or email it directly to Rita before the rehearsal. (ritaekiousis@yahoo.com)

First Reading (Bible Citation) _______________________________________________________

First Reading will be read by _______________________________________________________

(Usually the Psalm is sung, and the musician will plan this with you.)

Second Reading (Bible Citation) ____________________________________________________

Second Reading will be read by ____________________________________________________

Gospel (Bible Citation) ___________________________________________________________

The Gospel will be read by the priest or deacon.

Prayers of the Faithful, composed by the wedding couple, will be read by________________________

If you are having Mass with Communion, the Offertory Gifts will be presented by

______________________________ and ____________________________________________
If you are having Mass with Communion, an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is needed to help distribute communion: ____________________________.

(*At wedding Masses, Communion is shared in the form of bread only. It is too difficult to estimate the amount of wine needed for a wedding.)

If you have any questions, please contact Rita “Liz” Kiousis at ritaekiousis@yahoo.com