

## The New Rite of Marriage

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to Noon at St. Patrick Parish, East Hampton

OR

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 7 PM to 9 PM at St. Joseph Parish, Willimantic

Open to all who are interested, including musicians, planners, parish coordinators and especially to couples planning to marry in 2017.

To register, complete and mail the registration form to:  
Office of Worship, 199 Broadway Norwich, CT 06360  
or email [worship@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:worship@norwichdiocese.net)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parish and town \_\_\_\_\_

Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to Noon St. Patrick, East Hampton

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7-9PM St. Joseph, Willimantic

Five dollar registration fee may be pre-paid or paid at the door. (Checks payable to Office of Worship)

## THE NEW RITE OF MARRIAGE

As of December 30, 2016 all marriages that take place in the Catholic Church in the United States must follow a revised edition of the Marriage ceremony. This revised edition was published in Latin by the Vatican some years ago, but the official English and Spanish translations for use in this country were only recently approved and published.

For most people, the changes in wording in the Marriage ceremony will hardly be noticed at all. However, the Introduction to the new edition presents the traditional theology of the Sacrament of Marriage in a new and significant way. The bishops of the United States welcomed this enriched theological presentation, and are using its publication as an opportunity to renew and refresh the appreciation of the Sacrament of Marriage in the whole country.

Current national statistics on Catholic marriages are not very encouraging. In the past forty years there has been a 50% decline in the number of marriages celebrated. Also, even though the Catholic Church has fairly specific preparation requirements for marriage, the divorce rate for Catholics follows the national average at 50%, with the first ten years of a marriage being the most vulnerable.

To counteract these trends, and to better present the true character of the Sacrament of Marriage, there is strong encouragement to be more faithful to the actual liturgy of the sacrament, and to separate it from certain cultural practices and from a growing emphasis on extravagance.

For instance, in the theology of marriage both bride and groom are equally important, and both make the same sacramental commitment. Consequently, all aspects of the marriage liturgy should reflect that equality and mutuality. In this way, the Marriage liturgy correctly "speaks," or teaches, the theology of the sacrament. Likewise, the current tendency toward extravagance in wedding celebrations can obscure the significance of the sacrament. The faith commitment being made by the couple is more readily appreciated when it, rather than other details, is the focus of the liturgy.

By emphasizing theology and liturgy, the bishops of the country hope to bring to all Catholics a greater understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage which is the foundation of family life.

In March, the Office of Worship will be conducting two workshops on the New Rite of Marriage where these and other issues will be discussed.

*For registration information go to [www.norwichdiocese.org](http://www.norwichdiocese.org), or email [worship@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:worship@norwichdiocese.net).*

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