

## PLANNING YOUR PROCESSION:

The publication of the new Order of Celebrating Matrimony (the directions that the Church gives us for liturgical celebrations) calls us to review how we have celebrated this Sacrament in the past and whether our actions have reflected our beliefs. The result of this review is that the manner we begin, the Wedding Procession, has been updated. As part of a Liturgical Celebration the procession always includes the Cross Bearer and Altar Servers (carrying the Processional Cross and Candles) followed by the Priest/Celebrant. Here are your options for the Procession:

1. Cross Bearer, Altar Server w/ candles, Officiant
  - Bridesmaids and Groomsmen together
  - Best Man and Maid of Honor together
  - Flower Girl / Ring Bearer
  - Groom accompanied by his parents
  - Bride accompanied by her parents
  
2. Cross Bearer, Altar Server w/ candles, Officiant
  - Bridesmaids and Groomsmen together
  - Best Man and Maid of Honor together
  - Parents of Groom
  - Parents of Bride
  - Flower Girl / Ring Bearer
  - Bride and Groom walk together

The Bride and Groom are the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony and as such have equal standing, purpose, and responsibility in the celebration just as they will in their lives together. Neither adult, either Bride or Groom, is given "away". Parents of the Bride and Groom participate as the loving adults whose presence in the procession and ceremony serve to affirm their commitment to support the couple in their marriage.

Your wedding coordinator will be able to explain more fully how these procession options unfold and how they can be handled so that this important and momentous occasion will have all the grace and elegance that Brides and Grooms want to have in their Wedding Procession.