

Allie Sullivan & Michael O' Connor



CEREMONY:

St. Patrick's Church

RECEPTION:

Falkirk Estate and Country Club

DRESS: *David's Bridal, 888.639.6767, davidsbridal.com*

BRIDESMAIDS: *After Six*

TUX: *Men's Wearhouse*

MAKEUP & HAIR:

Expert Make-Up Artistry

FLORIST: *Putnam Valley Florist*

CAKE: *Homestyle Desserts Bakery*

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Afterglow Photos

DJ: *Enriquez Entertainment*



I knew I wanted to get married at Falkirk Estate and Country Club, where Mike had worked as a teenager. Falkirk Estate is a beautiful venue in Central Valley, NY, with amazing panoramic views of the Hudson Valley. Jennifer Mazzuca worked with us from the beginning and was incredibly helpful and accommodating.

Mike and I wanted our Irish heritage to play an important role in our wedding. We hired an Irish bagpiper to play at St. Patrick's Church. My late grandfathers' NYPD uniform buttons adorned the handle of my bouquet, which featured white and green hydrangeas and pearl-pinned stephanotis wrapped in green satin. Our beautiful ceremony concluded with a group recitation of the traditional "Irish Blessing."

Falkirk Estate did an amazing job of setting up our personal details, such as escort cards with freshly pressed hydrangeas, framed photos of family weddings, and numerous family photographs. Even more amazing than the décor was the spectacular food. Passed hors d'oeuvres included bacon-wrapped scallops, pear and brie phyllo purses with raspberry sauce, feta-stuffed portobello mushrooms, and vine-ripened tomato and onion bruschetta on herb toast. There were also stations with roasted garlic and thyme roast beef, creamy vegetable pasta, eggplant rollatini, international and domestic cheese displays, Italian antipasti displays, a fresh fruit cornucopia, and fresh seasonal crudités.

After the cocktail hour, guests entered the impeccably decorated Grand Ballroom. The centerpieces were deep purple hydrangea and green berry wreaths illuminated by floating candles in lily bowls. Each table was numbered with photos of us at each year of our lives and every guest setting included a homemade chocolate

Celtic cross. Dinner began with a Greek salad, followed by a sublime butternut squash soup, then a choice of sliced chateaubriand, chicken française, or salmon with a dill béchamel. Our four-tiered almond crunch cake, served with a chocolate-covered strawberry, featured Celtic knot detailing with deep purple hydrangeas. After enjoying the wonderful food, it was time to get on the dance floor! Our DJ's provided continuous music and the dance floor was hopping all night. Later on, we moved the after-party downstairs to Falkirk Pub, where we handed out Halloween masks and candy. Several guests said this was the nicest venue they had ever seen! Jennifer and the staff at Falkirk Estate helped us create the wedding of our dreams, and we cannot thank them enough.

I met Mike in November 2005. I had just graduated from SUNY Oneonta and was visiting friends in Woodlawn, NY. While out at our favorite pub, a mutual friend introduced me to Mike. We learned we had attended the same college where I had studied elementary education and literacy, and Mike had studied management. We also had a lot of friends in common. I was enamored by Mike's personality and soon realized I had never laughed so much!

That fall I got a teaching job in the city and moved to Woodlawn to be closer to work and Mike. We spent all our time together and became inseparable. Our relationship blossomed over the next three years, and in the fall, he proposed. I was taking a nap before a Halloween party when Mike woke me up dressed as a Care Bear! He handed me a pumpkin with a question mark carved into it. Inside was my engagement ring!

