



The Catholic Church of St. Ann

Raritan, New Jersey

Marriage Policy

I. Scheduling Your Wedding

- a. In order to allow sufficient time for Marriage preparation, we ask that couples should contact the parish one year before your anticipated wedding date.
- b. The Catholic Church of Saint Ann is available for weddings to registered parishioners.
- c. Weddings may be scheduled:
 - i. Friday 4:00pm or 5:00pm, Saturday 11:00am and 1:30pm. *Weddings are not permitted to take place on Sundays at The Catholic Church of St. Ann.*

II. Pre-Cana Conference

- a. *The Catholic Church of St. Ann* conducts two Pre-Cana Conferences each year. Call the host couple immediately to reserve your spot at Pre-Cana.
- b. In addition to Pre-Cana, all couples must also attend “God’s Plan for Marriage”. To register, go to www.diometuchen.org/deptsministries/family-life and click on the icon that says “**Marriage Preparation Information**” sessions. Or, you may call 732-562-1990 ext. 1623 or 1624. (Effective January 1, 2008)
- c. **Engaged Encounter Weekend** may be attended in place of Pre-Cana and “God’s Plan for Marriage.” Information can be obtained by calling the rectory or going to www.diometuchen.org/deptsministries/familylife.

III. Wedding Preparation Procedures

- a. The prospective bride or groom may call our parish office during regular office hours (Monday-Friday 9am-4pm). They will be directed to Deacon John Pacifico, or another member of the clergy, to schedule a meeting to begin the marriage process.

IV. Requirements

Required documents:

- a. For Roman Catholics
 - (1) Baptismal Certificate
 - (2) First Holy Communion Certificate
 - (3) Confirmation
 - (4) If this is not the Bride’s church then a release is needed from her parish
- b. For Non Catholic Christians: a baptismal certificate.

(All Catholic documents must be no more than six months old. Please obtain new certificates; originals are not new copies.)

1. The Marriage Liturgy:

- a. A priest or deacon will help you to plan your Marriage Liturgy; he will give you a booklet and teach you how to plan your wedding liturgy.
- b. You may choose either a Nuptial Mass or a Ceremony. Both are beautiful. We will explain both.
- c. Please schedule 1 month prior to wedding an appointment with your celebrant in order to select and review your Wedding music as well as the availability of the organist and cantor.
- d. Please use the parish organist and cantor; their salary is based upon a certain number of weddings each year.

2. State Requirements:

The State of New Jersey requires you to obtain a marriage license. It is obtained from the New Jersey municipality of the bride and is valid for 30 days. Please bring this license and required stipends to the rehearsal so the Best Man and the Maid/Matron of Honor can sign the license. After your wedding, we will complete the paperwork for the State and mail you a church certificate of marriage. It includes the pink copy of the civil license.

3. The Rehearsal:

- a. All members of the bridal party/readers should be present.
- b. Organize the order of the procession and the partners on paper.
- c. Parents should be present and their escorts should be selected.
- d. This is a special and joyful time; please remember that we are in the House of God.

4. The Wedding Day:

- a. Please be punctual.
- b. Ask the photographer and/or video person to see the celebrant prior to the wedding. Use flash/lights with care and sparingly. Both are permitted during the ceremony; however, they are never permitted in the sanctuary.
- c. No photographs are permitted after the ceremony; the church is a sanctuary and not a studio.
- d. Please, NOTHING may be thrown. You may use bubbles.
- e. The white runner is optional; it is purchased from a florist. It is 75 feet long.
- f. White bows on the pews are permitted; however, no tape of any kind. The florist sells these bows.
- g. Flowers: you may choose one basket for the center of the altar or two baskets on either side of the altar.

5. Dress Code:

Absolutely no bareback or low cut dresses will be permitted in Church. A shawl must be worn if dresses are bareback in respect of Our Lord.

6. Stipend:

Organist	\$300.00 (Parish organist only)
Cantor	\$200.00
Church	\$300.00 (gift to Priest or Deacon is not included)
Janitor	\$100.00 (fee for clean-up)