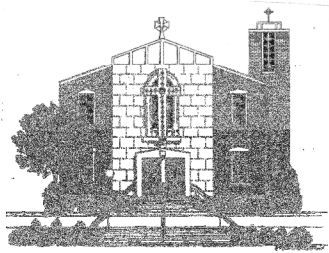




United
IN MARRIAGE



Saint Patrick Church - Corner of Chatham St. & Washington Ave.

Parish Offices - 41 Oliver Street

Chatham, New Jersey 07928

973-635-0625

www.st-pats.org

Celebrating Your Wedding
at
Saint Patrick Church



*Lord, may they both praise you
when they are happy
And turn to you in their sorrows.
May they be glad that you help them in their work
And know that you are with them in their need.
May they pray to you in the community of the Church,
And be your witnesses in the world.
May they reach an old age
in the company of their friends
And come at last to the kingdom of heaven.*



Dear Bride and Groom,

Welcome to St. Patrick Church! You have come to this beautiful church for one of the most important events of your life, the Sacrament of Christian Marriage. The following guidelines and suggestions are offered to you in order that your preparation may be as orderly and complete as possible.

This booklet has been prepared to answer most of the “usual” questions that are asked by couples preparing for marriage. If you have additional questions we will be happy to assist you.

The Common Policy for Catholic Marriages requires your active participation in marriage preparation: Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter (described in this booklet). In addition you will be meeting with the priest or deacon who is helping you prepare for your marriage. Together you will discuss formation issues as well as liturgical preparations.

“A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime.” May the Lord bless you on your wedding day and all the days of your marriage.

In Christ’s Love,

Fr. Bob Mitchell
Pastor

Preparing For Your Marriage

Marriage Preparation Process:

The usual custom for couples who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony is to begin the marriage preparation process with the priest or deacon of their choice who will assist your preparation and witness your marriage vows. In the Catholic Church the bride and the groom exchange vows – they marry each other. The priest or the deacon is the official witness for the Catholic Church and for the State of New Jersey.

The marriage preparation process should begin one year prior to the wedding date. The priest or deacon who will assist in your marriage preparation will provide all the necessary information concerning the requirements to participate in Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter. He will also obtain from you required documents and complete the forms used for our Church records.

Normally, there are three meetings with the priest or deacon, as well as the Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter, and a meeting with the parish music minister. You will also be asked to complete and review the FOCCUS inventory. If your circumstances require an alternate procedure, talk that over with the witnessing priest or deacon who will provide guidance.

Pre-Cana and Engaged Encounter

These two programs provide an opportunity to be with other engaged couples and a team of married couples to reflect on various aspects of marriage and married life. Together you center on the process of listening, through which a couple communicates, manifests their feelings about marriage and internalizes certain basic concepts of Christian marriage.

From Route 80

Take Route 80 to Route 287 South to Route 24 East
Exit at Exit 7A (Short Hills Mall / River Road)
Follow River Road toward Summit.
At 2nd traffic light (MERCK is across on the left) keep bearing right onto Watchung Avenue in Chatham.
Follow Watchung Avenue to thru one light at River Rd to the 2nd traffic light (Fairmount Avenue)
Turn Right onto Fairmount Avenue.
Go three blocks to Chatham Street and make a left.
Before the blinking traffic light, turn left into the Church parking lot.



Saint Patrick Church

*Corner of Chatham Street & Washington Avenue
Chatham, NJ - 973-635-0625*

From NJ Turnpike North or South

Exit 14 to Local Lanes of Route 78 West

*Continue on Route 78 West to Exit 48 (Route 24 /124),
continue on Route 24 West

From the Right Hand Lane, Exit 7 B/A (River Road, Summit /
Chatham)

Stay to the Right and take the 2nd Right to 124 West/ Chatham
Follow signs to Chatham. At 4th traffic light, take left onto
Fairmount Avenue.

Continue on Fairmount Avenue past Municipal building on right
and take the next right onto Chatham Street.

Before the blinking traffic light, turn left into the Church
parking lot.

From Garden State Parkway North

At Union Toll Plaza, use the exit at the extreme right toll lane to
route 78 East.

Take next exit (Hillside/Irvington / Route 78 West)

Follow Route 78 West sign, looping around and over Route 78.

Follow the directions at * on page 11.

From Garden State Parkway South

Take Exit 142 to Route 78 West

Follow directions at * above.

During the year, Saint Patrick offers two one day Pre-Cana sessions. They are usually from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm on a Saturday in March and October. Please contact the parish office for registration forms. Additional Pre-Cana programs are available through the Diocese of Paterson: patersondiocese.org.

Scheduling a Wedding

Once you have spoken to the priest or deacon who will witness your marriage vows, you may schedule your wedding. Please note that the scheduling of a wedding date and time can only be done by a Saint Patrick priest.

Saturday weddings are celebrated anytime from 10:00am - 3:00pm. On all other days, weddings are celebrated as times are available. However, weddings are not celebrated during Holy Week, or on Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day or on other days when major parish celebrations may occur.

Documents

The documents that must be presented to the priest or deacon who will witness your marriage vows falls into two categories: those required by ecclesial law (Church law) and those required by civil law.

Ecclesial Documents

1. Roman Catholics – a NEW copy of your Baptismal Certificate issued by the parish in which you were baptized. It should be dated within one year of the date of your wedding. Please contact the parish in which you were baptized directly asking for the Baptismal Certificate and any notations.

2. Christians who are not Roman Catholic - a copy of your Baptismal Certificate.
3. Pre-Cana Certificate or Engaged Encounter Certificate of Completion.
4. “Letter of Permission” from the pastor of your Catholic Church, if neither the bride nor the groom are members of Saint Patrick Church.
5. “Affidavit establishing the freedom to marry” for both the bride and groom, if neither the bride nor the groom are members of Saint Patrick Church.

Civil Documents

1. Marriage License of the State of New Jersey. Marriage licenses are obtained from the town clerk or registrar in the bride’s town of residence. If the bride is not a resident of New Jersey it is obtained in the groom’s town of residence. If neither is a resident of New Jersey, the license must be obtained at the Chatham Borough Municipal Building. The bride and groom must appear in person to make the application for a marriage license and have with them one witness who is 18 years or older. The application may be submitted up to six months before the marriage date but the license will not be issued until 72 hours after applying. However, once the marriage license is issued, it remains valid for only 30 days. Accordingly, we recommend that you carefully consider the “time requirements.”
2. Civil Divorce Decree for a previous marriage that ended in divorce.
3. Certificate of Death for a previous marriage that ended by death.



Fees and Donations to Saint Patrick Church, Cont.

The wedding donation to Saint Patrick Church is \$375 when either the bride or the groom is a member of the parish. If the bride and groom are not members of the parish the fee is \$500. This donation contributes to the heating, cooling and upkeep of the parish church. The priest or deacon receives no part of this offering.

You are required to use our Music Minister. The organist's fee is \$200 for a wedding ceremony *without* a mass, and \$250 for a wedding mass. These fees include rehearsal with one cantor. For each additional musician/rehearsal required for the celebration, an additional \$50 is paid to the music minister.

For example a wedding mass - \$250, with a trumpet player - \$50, and special soloist - \$50 would indicate a total fee of \$350.

If you wish to use a family member or friend as the organist, the music minister is still paid the bench fee since wedding stipends are part of their salary.

The Music Minister will arrange for a cantor / soloist to sing during your celebration. If you wish to use a family member or friend, the cantor should meet with the organist to coordinate the music prior to the wedding. The cantor normally will sing the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and the Ordinary of the Mass. The stipend for the St Pat's cantor is \$150.



Preparing For Your Wedding Ceremony / Liturgy

Nature of the Liturgy

All wedding liturgies are celebrated according to the Roman Catholic Rite of Marriage. You will decide together whether you will exchange vows during a "ceremony" or "Nuptial Mass." The priest or deacon who witnesses your marriage vows can help you with that decision and with planning the wedding ceremony/ Mass. He will give you a copy of the book titled "*Together for Life.*" It contains an outline of the celebration plus the multitude of prayer, reading, and blessing options. At the back of the book is a blue form, "*Preparing For Your Wedding - Selection Form*" This will be used to record or all of your selections regarding the wedding celebration. The bride and groom complete this form together and share it with the priest or deacon at the last meeting prior to the rehearsal.

Interfaith Marriages

Every effort will be made to accommodate the wishes of the bride and groom, including the participation of clergy from other Churches and Faith Traditions.

Music

Music, including hymns and songs, enhances the celebration of your wedding ceremony / Mass. Our parish Minister of Music will work with you to coordinate your music. She will meet with you to discuss music selections, use of a soloist / cantor and the option of additional musicians.

Maggie Hanson - Minister of Music, may be reached:
(973) 635- 0625 x31.
mhanson@st-pats.org

Diocesan guidelines as well as those found in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and the *Rite of Marriage* apply to all wedding celebrations.

Music Continued

The complete Order of Service for your wedding ceremony is outlined for you on pages 6-7 of *Together for Life*. The portions best set to music, and for which selections should be made are listed here. Additional music is sometimes selected (but not required) for the unity candle, a communion meditation, or a dedication to the Blessed Mother/Holy Family.

- Processional
One or two selections that accompany the party into the church
- Responsorial Psalm
One selection that reflects the nature of marriage
- Preparation of the Gifts (for wedding mass)
A selection that reflects the nature of marriage and/or community
- Communion (for wedding mass)
A selection that reflects our union with Christ in the receiving of communion
- Recessional
A selection that accompanies the joyful exit of the couple into the community and on to the reception!

For your convenience, musical suggestions for each part of the celebration are listed here *and* included on a CD at the back of this booklet. Please consider and listen to your options and feel free to contact Maggie if you have any questions or concerns.

A half-hour of joyful music will be provided by the music minister prior to the celebration. The familiar Celtic Alleluia will be used for the Gospel Acclamation, and the joyful Storrington mass setting will be used for the Eucharistic Acclamations.

Wedding Rehearsal

The priest or deacon who will witness your marriage vows will conduct a rehearsal with the entire wedding party within a few days of the wedding date. The rehearsal should take no more than forty-five minutes. Please make sure that the wedding party is punctual so that the rehearsal may begin on time. If a wedding consultant has been employed, the duties of the consultant are limited in the Church.

Promptness

Contrary to popular misconception – being late for your wedding is never fashionable. Rather, it is inconsiderate. Please inform all who are involved that both the rehearsal and the wedding celebration will begin on time.

Fees and Donations to Saint Patrick Church

Envelopes will be provided for all fees when you receive the booklet: *Together For Life*. For your convenience the submission of all fees and documentation will take place at your final gathering with the priest. A check list is included on your blue *Wedding Selections Form* which accompanies the *Together For Life* booklet

Photographs and Video

The taking of pictures and use of video cameras are certainly welcome.

The photographer and videographer should meet with the priest or deacon who is officiating at the marriage 30 minutes before the celebration to discuss the parish guidelines. In general, the use of flood lights and flash equipment is limited to the entrance and recessional. At other times, available light should be used to avoid distracting the couple, family and officiant. The photographer and videographer should be considerate of the bride and groom and those gathered for this wedding. Their movements should not distract from the celebration, nor block ability of the congregation to view the ceremony. Neither the photographer nor the videographer may enter onto the predella or sanctuary, i.e. the area around the altar including the steps and choir.

If you wish to take pictures after the ceremony, the marriage must begin on time. The wedding party must depart the Church by 4:30 pm since the Church must be available for persons coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the 5:00 pm Mass. The parking lot must be available for parishioners arriving for the 5:00 pm Mass.

Printed Programs

Saint Patrick parish does not provide this service. If you wish to have a wedding program, the priest or deacon may be able to provide samples of programs. It is advisable to ask the priest or deacon who will witness your marriage vows to review it before it goes to print.

Musical Suggestions:

CD track numbers indicated

Processionals & Recessionals

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Trumpet Voluntary - Stanley | 6 Ode to Joy |
| 2 Pachelbel's Canon in D | 7 Rondeau |
| 3 Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke | 8 Hornpipe |
| 4 Trumpet Tune | 9 March (Mendelssohn) |
| 5 Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring | |

Responsorial Psalms

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10 All the Ends of the Earth | 14 May the Lord Bless Us |
| 11 We Are God's People | 15 Lord Your Love is Everlasting |
| 12 The Lord is Kind and Merciful | 16 I Have Loved You |
| 13 I Will Take the Cup of Life | 17 We Praise You |

Communion & General

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 18 Ave Maria - Gounod | 30 The Summons |
| 19 Ave Maria - Schubert | 31 We Are Many Parts |
| 20 Panis Angelicus | 32 Covenant Hymn |
| 21 Come and Journey | 33 Taste and See |
| 22 How Beautiful | 34 I Am the Bread of Life |
| 23 I Have You | 35 One Bread, One Body |
| 24 On Eagles Wings | 36 Seed, Scattered and Sown |
| 25 You Are Mine | 37 When Love is Found |
| 26 Blessed Are They | 38 Wherever You Go |
| 27 The Servant Song | 39 Open My Eyes |
| 28 Not for Tongues of Heavens Angels | 40 We Praise You |
| 29 We Have Been Told | |

These are only suggestions. Contact Maggie to discuss further.

Once your musical selections have been made you should indicate these on the blue, *Wedding Selections* form included in the back of your wedding planner: ***Together For Life.***

Flowers

Flowers can be placed in the Church to enhance the liturgical celebration of your wedding.

During the different seasons of the Liturgical Year, the Church is decorated to reflect the spirit of the season. Normally, there are two arrangements placed in the niches in the Sanctuary. These flowers are delivered each Saturday and will be present throughout the weekend. If you choose to purchase flowers for these niches the regular arrangements should be carefully moved to the sacristy and replaced when your flowers are removed immediately after the ceremony. If you would like to purchase flowers for the niches that you will LEAVE in the church please contact the parish office as early as possible so that our standing flower order can be adjusted. Flowers, candles or other decorations may never be placed on the altar itself.

Your florist should contact the parish office to schedule delivery.

Sharing flowers: If there is more than one wedding on the same day or weekend, you may wish to share the selection and cost of the wedding flowers. The parish office has that information.

Wedding flowers are not required.

Decorating Pew Ends

Ribbons and bouquets may be attached to the pew ends if they are attached with rubber bands, rubber clips, or rubber loops.

Wire or any kind of adhesive such as tape may never be used.

Fire code prohibits candles, lanterns or other such items on the pews or in the aisle.

Runners

No runner is permitted in the Church due to our insurance policies.

Balloons, Birdseed, Confetti, Rice, Rose Petals, etc.

To ensure the safety of the environment, our Church and your wedding guests, please inform all who attend your wedding celebration that nothing may be thrown or dropped either inside or outside of the Church.

Please inform the Limo Service that it is not permitted nor appropriate for the bridal party to have drinks in front of the Church, prior or after the wedding ceremony.

Marriage Unity Candle

The Marriage Unity Candle is an optional rite introduced to the marriage celebration in the United States. It is not a required element of the wedding celebration.

If you wish to light a Marriage Unity Candle after you exchange your marriage vows, you must purchase a 3 candle set at a local candle shop or religious article store.

The two side candles should measure 7/8 of an inch in diameter (standard size) and the marriage candle should be no larger than 3 1/2 inches in diameter. Candles should be brought to the wedding rehearsal.

Flowers to Our Lady and the Holy Family:

If you have a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and wish to honor her and ask the Holy Family to bless your marriage, flowers may be brought to the Holy Family Statue during the wedding Mass, usually, after Communion. Indicate your choice on the *Selection Form - Other Special Elements or Alternatives in Our Ceremony*.