

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your engagement! We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your wedding within the Church and look forward to sharing this joyful and sacred moment with you.

As you prepare for your wedding day, our parish community is here to support you. The Church offers many resources to assist you, including marriage preparation programs, beautiful and prayerful music, and a sacred space that provides a reverent setting for your celebration. Most importantly, we offer you our faith.

We believe that your wedding is more than a special event, and your marriage is more than a legal agreement. Your wedding is the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage—a lifelong covenant in which you invite Jesus Christ to be at the center of your lives together. This is a gift meant to sustain you not only on your wedding day, but throughout your married life.

We pray that you will experience the love, support, and joy that are at the heart of our parish community. May God bless you during this time of preparation, on the day you exchange your vows, and in the years to come.

FOCCUS & PRE-CANA MARRIAGE PREPARATION

As part of the Church's care for couples preparing for marriage, participation in the FOCCUS and Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Program is required.

FOCCUS—*Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study*—is designed to help couples reflect honestly and prayerfully on their relationship.

There are a number of options for selecting a Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation course:

- Our parish Pre-Cana team is happy to accompany you during this process. You will be contacted by the Parish Office to register for an upcoming session.
- The Diocese of Rockville Centre also offers courses. Visit drvc-faith.org.
- You may register for an online course at themarriagegroup.com.
- Engaged Encounter offers weekend courses. Visit engagedencounter.com.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

Catholic parties are asked to obtain a recent copy of their Baptismal Certificate from the church where they were baptized. When making your request, please note that the certificate is needed for marriage purposes and must be dated within six months of the wedding.

Non-Catholic Christians are kindly asked to provide a copy of their original Baptismal Certificate or a letter from their church indicating the date and place of baptism.

AFFIDAVIT OF FREEDOM TO MARRY

The priest or deacon will provide an Affidavit of Freedom to Marry. This is a simple step that helps ensure the marriage can be celebrated with peace of mind and in accordance with Church law.

LETTERS FROM ONE'S PARISH

Ordinarily, marriage takes place in the parish of the bride. If circumstances make this impractical, a Letter of Permission may be requested from her parish.

If the groom is not a registered member of this parish, he will be asked to obtain a Letter of Freedom to Marry from his home parish. These letters are a way for parishes to support one another and to affirm your readiness for marriage.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The State of New York requires a civil marriage license for all weddings. Both applicants must appear in person to obtain the license. A blood test is no longer required.

The license becomes valid 24 hours after issuance and remains valid for 60 days. It may be obtained at any town or city hall in New York State. We recommend calling ahead to confirm hours and required documentation.

Please remember to bring your marriage license to the Parish Office prior to the rehearsal.

TIME AND DATE OF THE WEDDING

Out of respect for other parish activities and the flow of the liturgy, we ask that weddings begin on time. If a wedding begins late, the presiding priest may need to adjust the length of the Mass.

VISITING PRIEST OR DEACON

You are welcome to invite a priest or deacon who is a relative or close friend to officiate at your wedding. Written delegation is required and should be requested in advance.

In interfaith marriages, non-Catholic clergy are also welcome to participate in accordance with Church guidelines.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule your wedding rehearsal. We kindly ask that all members of the wedding party arrive on time so the rehearsal may proceed smoothly, especially since other parish activities may follow.

WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING

Your wedding liturgy is a prayer of the Church, and we encourage you to take time choosing the readings and prayers that best reflect your faith and your hopes as a couple.

A planning guide and Scripture booklet 'Together for Life' is included in your wedding folder. Once your selections are made, please arrange a meeting with the priest or deacon officiating at your wedding to review them together.

MUSIC

Music is a beautiful and essential part of the Church's prayer. The music chosen for your wedding should reflect the sacred nature of the sacrament and help all present to pray together.

All music selections are reviewed by the Director of Music, in consultation with the presiding priest or deacon, to ensure they are appropriate for the liturgy.

LIMOUSINES

Limousines should arrive at the church approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the wedding to allow time for the wedding party to gather calmly and prayerfully.

We ask that alcohol and drugs not be used before the ceremony or anywhere on church property. Your full presence and reverence help ensure that your vows are exchanged freely and with clear intention.

FLORAL AND DECORATION GUIDELINES

Flowers are optional and may be arranged to complement the church's natural beauty and any seasonal decorations already in place.

Florists may set up no more than one hour before the ceremony. Pew bows may not be taped to the pews; large rubber bands are recommended.

RICE, CONFETTI & AISLE RUNNERS

For safety and cleanliness, rice, confetti, seeds, petals, and similar items are not permitted inside or outside the church. Bubbles and bells are welcome alternatives. Aisle runners are not permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO RECORDING

You are welcome to document your wedding day through photography and video recording. We ask that photographers and videographers work discreetly so as not to distract from the prayerful nature of the liturgy.

The sanctuary area is reserved for liturgical ministers. Flash photography is permitted only during the opening and closing processions. Additional lighting is not permitted once the liturgy begins.

Please ask your photographer and videographer to speak with the presiding priest or deacon before the ceremony.

USHERS / GROOMSMEN

Ushers are asked to arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled start time so they may warmly welcome and assist your guests as they arrive.

OFFERING

Information regarding the wedding offering and related fees is included on a separate envelope in your wedding folder. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with a member of our staff.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

Your wedding day will be a sacred and joyful celebration of God's love at work in your lives. Please know that our parish staff, clergy, and community are here to support you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions as you prepare for this beautiful sacrament.

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

- FOCCUS and Pre-Cana completed
- Updated Baptismal Certificates submitted
- Affidavit of Freedom to Marry submitted (if required)
- Wedding liturgy planned
- Rehearsal scheduled
- Marriage license obtained
- Offering submitted