

DIVINE MERCY PARISH
& THE MISSION OF ST. BERNADETTE

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

Your wedding day will be one of the most important days of your lives. We want to assist you in making it as memorable as possible. Please feel free to call us at any time if we can assist you in any way.

There are certain preparations that are common to all marriages, and they are listed here for your convenience and easy reference.

A. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

1. A **Record of Baptism** is required and must be issued from the Church of your Baptism **within six months of your wedding date.** If you were baptized in a Church other than Divine Mercy it will be necessary to write or call and request a **current** Baptismal record from that Church. **Copies are not acceptable.**
2. A **Civil License** from New York State is also required. It is attainable from the Town or City Clerk and must be obtained more than 24 hours before the time of the wedding and is valid for 60 days. Kindly present the license to the priest/deacon at the time of the rehearsal.
3. If there has been a **previous marriage** for **either** party, it is absolutely necessary that the Clergy be contacted regarding the status of freedom to marry again. It makes no difference whether the party is Catholic or not, or whether the ceremony was witnessed by a priest, deacon, minister, rabbi, or justice of the peace – this must be brought to the attention of the priest/deacon, so that a decision can be made regarding the necessity of an annulment. If an annulment has been obtained by a Catholic Church Tribunal, the “Certificate of annulment” **must be presented before** a date is confirmed at Divine Mercy.

B. ARRANGEMENTS:

1. The Date and Time of the wedding should be arranged with the secretary and confirmed by the pastor at least six months in advance. (It is presumed that the Catholic party (parties) is practicing the faith and has been a registered parishioner for six (6) months **prior** to setting a date.)
2. Participation in the Pre-Cana Program is a Diocesan requirement. Kindly make arrangements to participate in our Pre-Cana Program by calling the office. This should be done **as soon as possible.** If you are an out of town

couple you should contact your home parish to help facilitate your attendance. The Engaged Encounter Weekend may be used in place of Pre-Cana. Otherwise, you must make the Pre-Cana offered by Diocese of Syracuse. (visit www.familylifeeducationsyracuse.org or call the (315) 472-6754 for more details)

3. Questions relative to the type of ceremony should be clarified with the Priest/deacon; Namely, the Nuptial Mass, participation of non-Catholic clergy, reception of Holy Communion, etc.
4. We strongly encourage the couples contemplating marriage to plan their own ceremony by choosing from a planning booklet, prayers, readings, and vow. The involvement of relative/friends as Lectors, and presenters of the Eucharistic Gifts is likewise encouraged. Please choose individuals who are comfortable with performing these duties in public. Participation in planning and implementation makes the ceremony more personal.
5. Music arrangements should be made with our Director of Music at least 6 weeks in advance. **Secular music in the liturgy is prohibited.** Contact the parish office for information how to meet with the Director of Music
6. Rehearsal for those actively participating in the ceremony is usually held the night before the wedding no later than 6 pm. The time should be arranged with the parish secretary and must be approved by the priest or deacon. It is recommended that the readers of the Scripture also attend.

C. OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Rose petals are allowed to be dropped onto the carpet during the procession and must be cleaned up after the ceremony.
2. A photographer and/or videographer are permitted but not necessary. If desired, arrangements should be made by the couple. The photographer and/or videographer should check with the priest or deacon before the ceremony for directives. The photographer and/or videographer are never allowed into the sanctuary proper, but may take pictures from the side. **Video lights are not allowed.** If pictures of the wedding party are taken in the church after a 1:30pm wedding, it is **absolutely** necessary that the photography is completed by **3:00pm**. Please be sure your photographer and/or videographer is aware of this.
3. **Throwing of confetti, rice and birdseed is prohibited. Boxes for**

corsages, water bottles, pew decorations, any and all decorations (including unity candle if used) MUST be cleaned up by the wedding Party or someone appointed by them prior to leaving the church after the ceremony.

4. It is only appropriate that on this important day in your lives, friends and car drivers participate in the ceremony by their presence inside the Church. Please be sure that **No alcoholic beverages, champagne, etc.** are consumed on Church grounds **during** or **prior to the ceremony.**
5. Newly married couples should register in the parish they plan to attend. Do not presume that you are registered even though you have lived in that parish for a period of years. Do not presume we know you if you "grew up" in this parish and no longer reside here or attend mass. **It is expected that if you are seeking the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Roman Catholic Church that at least one of the couple is a practicing Catholic & is registered at a parish. The pastor may request a letter attesting to this from your home parish.**

The Clergy of Divine Mercy will assist in your preparation in anyway we can. Be aware that if you are an out of town couple, Divine Mercy share a pastor and deacon and it is extremely difficult for parish priest to meet with you on the weekend.

*** * * * ORDINARY OFFERINGS * * * ***

<u>CHURCH</u>	\$300	Check is made payable to "Divine Mercy Parish". This stipend includes donation to the Church, Celebrant and the janitor.
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(The \$50.00 deposit required at the time you reserve the Church is to be deducted from the \$300 Church stipend. This non-refundable deposit is necessary since we have had a number of weddings cancel in the past without notification.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO REHEARSAL
(The Night before the wedding):

6. Marriage license.
7. Printed programs if you are using them