

**St. Catherine of Bologna Church**  
**112 Erskine Road**  
**Ringwood, NJ 07456**  
**973-962-7032**



## **MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS**

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The priests of St. Catherine of Bologna Parish wish you God's blessings and joy as you anticipate your married life together. Implicit in our desire to help you prepare for your Wedding Day is our desire to help you prepare for your marriage. This booklet is designed to provide information to you and about your wedding and the liturgy as well as the parish's spiritual and practical program of preparation for married life. We hope this is a help to you. Please read it over, and if you have any questions, feel free to call the priest or deacon celebrating your marriage liturgy.

## **WHEN TO BEGIN**

Preparation should begin a year before the wedding date. The priest will meet with the couple to set the date and time for their wedding. No public announcement of the wedding date should be made until this meeting, since the exact date and time you may wish may not be available. Only the priest/deacon can reserve the Church.

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Marriage preparation is a required part of the Church's ministry to the engaged. At your first appointment with the priest/deacon, he will inform you of two forms of marriage preparation currently available throughout New Jersey and much of the United States.

A Pre-Cana Sessions are required, and they can be completed online: [www.catholicmarriageprep.com](http://www.catholicmarriageprep.com). Phone number 1-800-208-1364. Certificate of Completion must be submitted to the priest/deacon. The priest/deacon presiding at your wedding will provide you with detailed information regarding these sessions.

During your meetings with the priest/deacon, he will spend some time getting to know each of you.

The role of the priest/deacon is to help the couple prepare for their married life together. There is a certain amount of paperwork required for a marriage. In addition, the priest/deacon will discuss the liturgy and its theology and the specific options you have for the ceremony. He will ask you for your thoughts on the liturgy and especially the scriptures to be selected for the wedding.

Your relatives and friends are encouraged to participate in the liturgy. Those who are comfortable with speaking publicly may be asked to read one of the scriptures or to lead the Prayer of the Faithful. It is appropriate for members of the family to present gifts at the Offertory if the marriage is to take place at a Mass.

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

The priest or deacon prepares the couple for the Sacrament of Marriage and also performs the legal requirements to civilly officiate at the marriage. The couple will receive the information regarding the civil requirements by calling the town hall.

A New Jersey Marriage license is obtained in the municipality where the bride or groom lives. If neither are New Jersey residents, the license is obtained in the municipality of the Church. The license is good for thirty days according to New Jersey and must be presented to the priest/deacon on or before the wedding rehearsal. We advise the couple to obtain

the license at least one week prior to the wedding. Please make sure the license does not expire prior to the wedding date.

## **GUEST PRIEST**

A guest Roman Catholic Priest may perform the marriage ceremony (or concelebrate), after receiving permission from our Pastor. The couple must inform the Pastor of a guest priest at the initial meeting. The visiting priest must present to the Pastor documentation stating that he is a priest in good standing.

## **CONFESSIONS**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important means of preparing for your wedding and your marriage. We encourage you to begin your married life together by celebrating the gift of the Lord's forgiveness. All couples will be asked to go to confession at the rehearsal.

## **WITNESSES**

A non-Catholic may serve as witness (best man or maid of honor).

## **ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH MARRIAGES**

Every effort will be made to accommodate the wishes of the bride and groom, including the participation of clergy from other Churches, ecclesial communities, and faiths. However, the vows will be witnessed by the Catholic Priest.

## **FLOWERS**

Couples should make arrangements with a florist directly for flowers. Since the Church does not order flowers when a wedding is scheduled, we depend upon your floral arrangements for the weekend Masses. When a professional florist is not being used, the couple is asked to notify the priest so that guidelines may be shared regarding decorating the Church. Flowers should not be delivered to the Church until after 12 noon. Flowers will remain in the Church after the wedding.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Naturally, pictures and videos are an ideal way of remembering this special event. Please ask your photographer to meet with the priest/deacon 15 minutes before the wedding for recommended guidelines. If you wish to have a receiving line in Church and to take pictures after the ceremony, the marriage must begin on time.

## **REMINDERS**

Confetti, birdseeds or rice may NOT be thrown inside or outside of the Church. No runner is permitted in Church. Please inform the Limo Service that it is not appropriate for the bridal party to have drinks in front of the Church.

The unity candle may be used with permission.

## **LITURGY PROGRAM BOOKLET**

If the couple wishes to distribute a program booklet at the marriage ceremony, a copy of the program must be sent to the Parish Office no later than two weeks before the wedding for review of the liturgical order of the ceremony.

## **REHEARSAL**

The wedding party needs to be present for the rehearsal.

If everyone arrives promptly, the rehearsal should take no more than one hour.

**We hope this information help your wedding preparation and we pray that the Lord bless you with many years of happiness.**