

Limousine Drivers: Please note: The uncorking of champagne or wine is inappropriate and will not be allowed in front of the Church. Please advise the drivers beforehand.

Music: is an integral part of the celebration of Marriage. **Please note:** only *sacred music* (music written for the sole purpose of use in Church and the Glory of God) is to be sung or played. No music from Broadway or popular tunes will be allowed in Church. To assist with music choices, call Glenn Kaiser, Director of Music at 347-286-4076 or musicministry@stpatrikssi.org. See website for music choices at stpatrikssi.org.

Pre-Cana Preparation: Every couple must attend Pre-Cana. To register for the Archdiocese of New York class visit <https://marriageprep.nyfamilylife.org/>

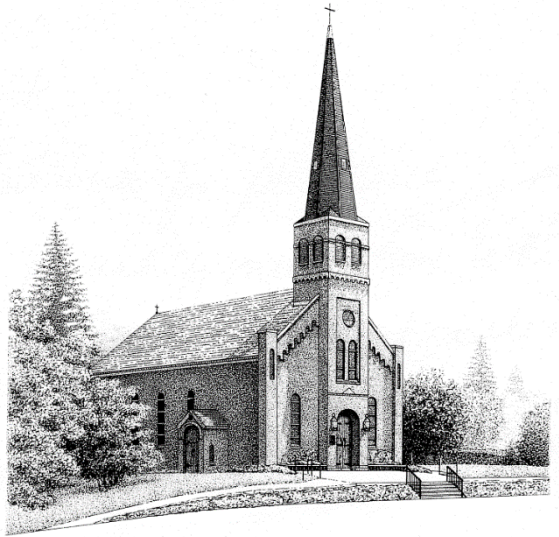
Priest Visitors: If you have a priest relative or friend, they are most cordially welcomed to witness the ceremony. Please inform the parish priest.

Rehearsal: Please arrange date and time with the Parish Office. It is imperative that rehearsals begin on time. Other couples may have their rehearsals that night as well. Couples should come prepared bringing along the readers, gift-bearers, ushers, and anyone else involved in the marriage ceremony. The marriage license should be brought to the rehearsal, as well as the church fees including the late/maintenance fee.

Video/Photographer: Please ask them to speak with the Sacristan prior to the ceremony. Professional photographers should be inconspicuous throughout the entire ceremony. Videotaping that requires additional lighting or wiring is not permitted. In most cases, the ordinary light of the Church should suffice. Photographers using extra lighting will be asked to remove the equipment. Photographers are not allowed in the sanctuary around the altar. They are not to interfere with the flow of the ceremonies at Church.

Wedding Fees:

Church:	\$450.00
Church	\$550.00 (out of Parish)
Music Ministry Organist:	\$150.00
Music Ministry Cantor:	\$125.00
Sacristan:	\$100.00
Server(s):	\$ 20.00 each
Late Fee/Cleaning Fee (deposit)	\$150.00



*The Sacrament of Marriage
at
St. Patrick's Church*

*53 St. Patrick's Place
Staten Island, New York 10306*

Wedding Preparation Guidelines

Congratulations! Your marriage is an opportunity for our entire parish to experience the reality of God's love as seen in family. We as Catholics believe that our best "picture" of God's love is the love between a husband and wife, so we are all grateful to you for showing us God! These guidelines are to help you in properly preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

Your spiritual development as a couple is the most important aspect of your marriage preparation. As you enter the church, come before the altar and exchange your vows, you will receive a new sacramental identity, which will be centered on a relationship built on faith in God and faith in each other.

Marriage is a sacrament, which lasts for life. We are here to help you to prepare for this profound experience of God's love that will be showered upon you on your wedding day and every day of your married life. Because sacraments are essential to the life of the church, adequate marriage preparation is necessary to the reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

In the weeks and months ahead as you plan for the reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony, we suggest that you spend some time each day in prayer. Prayers, both alone and together, will certainly deepen your personal relationship and your relationship with God.

We strongly encourage couples preparing to be married in the church to attend Mass each Sunday. Your presence is important not only for one another but also for this parish community. Going to Mass together each week is an essential part of marriage. If you are going to be our best picture of God – and you are – then have Him as part of your marriage from the very start.

We recommend that you make frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance, particularly prior to your wedding. This sacrament affords you the opportunity to experience the forgiveness, healing and love of the Lord.

If the bride is not a member of St. Patrick's, she will need a letter of permission from her parish to be married here.

Banns of Marriage: For three weeks prior to your wedding, your names will be published in our bulletin informing God's people of the impending marriage. Banns need to be published in the other's person parish as well.

Bridal Carpet (runner): Due to safety issues and to maintain the beauty of the our parish church floor, the "Bridal Carpet" (runner) **is not allowed!** Please inform the florist or limousine company not to charge you for it.

Bridal Dress and Bridesmaids Gowns: Out of respect for the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and the holiness of the Sacrament, we request that the gowns worn by the bridal party be appropriate to Church.

Civil License: New York State requires a civil license to marry. A license can be picked up at any town hall within the State of New York; most people on Staten Island go to Borough Hall in St. George. You need to bring your birth certificate, a picture ID and the fee. The license is valid for 60 days with a 24-hour waiting period. It is your responsibility to obtain the license; no ceremony can take place without a license.

Documents: You are responsible to obtain the following documents:

- An updated Baptismal certificate. This certificate must be secured not more than **six months** prior to the wedding and can be obtained by calling or writing the parish of your baptism.
- Catholics should also obtain First Communion and Confirmation certificates.
- If there has been a previous marriage, a death certificate a "Declaration of Nullity" must be obtained.
- A letter of permission from the bride's parish, if the bride is not from St Patrick's Parish.

Flowers: All floral arrangements must be discussed with the priest. There is no "official" florist for the parish. Floral arrangements and other appointments must work around the furnishings of the Church. For safety reasons, nothing should be thrown inside or outside the church (petals, rice, streamers, etc.). We recommend that your guests be given the wedding bubbles for outside the church.

Late Fee/Cleaning Fee: A \$150.00 refundable deposit check will be collected beforehand. The groom and ushers should arrive at Church 30 minutes prior to the wedding time, the bride and bridal party, 15 minutes. If your wedding starts on time, and nothing is thrown down on the steps or grounds (e.g. rice, birdseed, floral petals, confetti, candy.), the deposit will be returned to you. If our maintenance man needs to sweep, or the ceremony begins late, then the money will be forfeited. **Please note:** Balloons cannot be released because of their threat to birds and fish in the nearby waters, by the order of local ordinances.