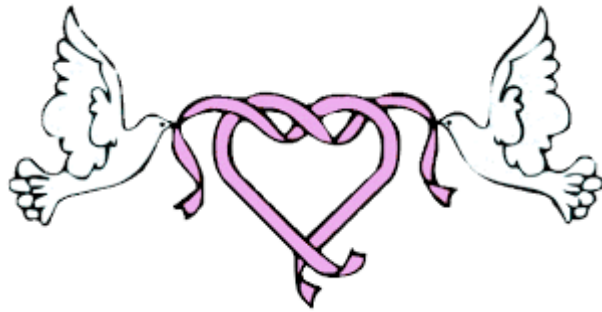


# ***Your Wedding Celebration***



***St. John the Baptist,  
Most Holy Trinity,  
St. Ann Parish***

***Yonkers, New York***

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations on your engagement! It is an occasion of great joy for you, your relatives, friends and our parish community. We here at St. John the Baptist, Most Holy Trinity, St. Ann Parish count it a privilege to make sure that your day is a very spiritual day. In the light of our experience the following parish procedures will aid in your preparation for this truly wonderful celebration.

## **WHO MAY GET MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

Ordinarily only practicing Roman Catholics who are fully initiated into the faith and have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Penance and Holy Eucharist. These persons must not have been married before or be bound by religious vows.

## **WHO MAY MARRY IN OUR PARISH CHURCH?**

Ordinarily only registered parishioners are eligible to be married at St. John's. Exceptions may be made if a long-established family connection to the parish can be demonstrated.

## **PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

1) **DOCUMENTATION** - Certain documents must be obtained before your marriage may be celebrated:

- a) Recent copies of your baptismal certificates, issued by the Church of Baptism WITHIN SIX MONTHS prior to your wedding. (**Original Only -No photocopies are acceptable.**)
- b) Dates and places of First Communion and Confirmation (Photocopies are acceptable)
- c) Arrangements for announcing the Banns in the parish of each of the engaged couple.
- d) If one of the engaged individuals is not a parishioner of St. John's, a letter from your Pastor indicating that you are free to marry.
- e) Written permission from parents if you are under 18 years.
- f) In ecumenical marriages (Catholic and non-Catholic), the Catholic person must make in writing two promises:
  - To remain a member of the Catholic Church.
  - To do everything possible to have his/her child(ren) baptized and to raise them in the Catholic Faith.

These promises must be understood by the non-Catholic person.

- g) A Marriage License issued by the State of New York must be obtained within 60 days prior to the wedding date.

## **2) MARRIAGE PREPARATION –**

- a) The church **REQUIRES** that you attend **ONE** of the following programs: *Pre-Cana*, *Engaged Encounter* or *Engagement*. You will receive a booklet with the dates and locations. Sign up well in advance of your wedding date. Please note that the booklet also contains information about *Natural Family Planning*. Please consider signing up for instruction during your engagement.
- b) In addition to the above, our parish **REQUIRES** that you complete the **FOCCUS Instrument**. *FOCCUS* (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) helps to raise questions and areas of concern for each couple. It explores basic expectations, communication, and problem-solving skills and attitudes on money, children, religion, sexuality and in-laws. Couples set aside one hour to complete the instrument. Your answers are completely confidential. The results will be discussed with you.
- c) You should plan on celebrating the Sacrament of Penance sometime before your wedding. Marriage is the beginning of a new life together. This sacrament will help you to center your marriage in Christ. The Sacrament is celebrated here on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. and by appointment.

## **PLANNING THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

**SETTING THE DATE** - Only a priest of the parish may set a date with you. A date will be set only after the priest has met with you and determined that you are free to marry here. It is the couple's responsibility to secure the date and time with the parish before making other commitments. Sufficient time is needed to complete all marriage preparation requirements. (At least six months are needed). All fees are due at or before the rehearsal.

### **SCHEDULING THE TIME**

#### **St. John the Baptist:**

Friday - 3:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.

Saturday - 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m.

Sunday - 2:30 p.m.

#### **St. Ann:**

Friday - 3:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.

Saturday - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Sunday - 2:00 p.m. or after

***There must always be at least 2 hours between weddings.***

**THE CELEBRANT** - One of the priests or deacons of our parish will guide you through the preparation process and normally will preside at your wedding.

**MASS OR CEREMONY?** - Roman Catholics normally celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage during a Nuptial Mass. Your Sacrament may also be celebrated in a ceremony. A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian will be celebrated at a ceremony also. A marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian is also celebrated in a ceremony.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** - Music at your wedding will be provided by our Musical Director and Parish Cantor. They are trained in Catholic Liturgy, and they will make it a special experience for you, your family and your friends. The Music Director will provide an organist and cantor for all weddings held in the church. All questions regarding music, vocalist or additional instruments are to be discussed with St. John's Music Director.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**FEES** –The total fee for parishioners is \$900.00. This fee includes music (organist and a singer), the rehearsal, altar servers, sexton, and the donation to the parish.

**LATENESS** - **PLEASE BE ON TIME AS A SIGN OF COURTESY TO YOUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS AND THE CHURCH!** Your wedding is not the only liturgy in our parish this day, therefore in order to compensate the extra time of our staff, a refundable fee of \$500.00 (check or cash, separate from the wedding fee) must be submitted at the rehearsal with the signed contract. A contract will need to be signed at the rehearsal by the bride and groom agreeing to all the necessary church procedures. If your wedding starts on time, the fee will be refunded to you immediately. If your wedding **STARTS** late, the fee will not be refunded, and a Nuptial Mass will become a ceremony at the discretion of the priest. There are no exceptions! Please be considerate of your guests and your parish!

**THE REHEARSAL** - Choose the date and time of your rehearsal as early as possible. **PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR YOUR REHEARSAL!** We are on a tight schedule here at St. John's! Please bring to the rehearsal: Marriage License and Church's fees. The couple should sign the contract with the priest or deacon at the rehearsal.

**FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS** - You may have flowers or bows at the end of the pews; it is your responsibility to organize these. They **MAY NOT** be fastened with tape. A white carpet is not allowed. Trees or arches **are not** permitted.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** - Your photographer must be a professional. He/she may take flash pictures during the wedding. Photographers are **NEVER** permitted in the sanctuary. (This is the area up the steps where you will be seated.) Time permitting, a picture of the bridal party may be taken in Church after the wedding. (If you are late, this will be impossible.) A video photographer is welcome. However, he/she must use a fixed tripod stand placed on the side aisle, or the choir loft at all times. Make sure he/she understands that **NO LIGHTS ARE PERMITTED** in Church. This is an **ARCHDIOCESAN POLICY**. He/she must be prepared to use existing Church lighting throughout the wedding. If these guidelines are not followed, your photographer(s) will be asked to leave the Church. We ask that when you hire your photographer(s), bring these guidelines and let him/her read them and agree to them before you hire them.

**OUTSIDE THE CHURCH** - The reception area is located on the landing to the right of the main entrance. On occasion, balloons are attached to the handrails. We ask that they do not interfere with people's ability to use the handrails. Also, you must arrange to have any balloons removed immediately after the wedding. We only permit soap bubbles. This must be distributed to guests as they leave the church. The bride and groom must accept full liability and responsibility in case of any injury caused by the throwing of any other object.

**CHURCH STAFF** - Each wedding is assisted by our church staff. They will be present in the Vestibule of the church from the beginning of the wedding until its completion. They will guide the bridal party through the marriage celebration. Please instruct all others (i.e., Photographers, Limousine Drivers etc....) that the church staff has the authority to direct your bridal party when they arrive at the church.

## **A FINAL WORD**

*We hope that you will find these parish procedures helpful. They are intended to ensure a reverent and joyful celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. It is our conviction that time and effort spent preparing now for your Sacrament will help to ensure a lifetime together! We look forward to celebrating your Sacrament with you! May Christ abundantly bless your love for each other and fill you with His peace!*

Revised: 4/14/2025