

MUSIC

Our Director of Music, Mrs. Nancy Mejia, must be contacted at 856-354-1866 as soon as your wedding date is set, to arrange the music for your wedding. She will assist you with the arrangements for a vocalist and/or other musicians. Her fee is \$225. However, if you decide to use an outside pianist/organist, you are responsible for a bench fee/stipend of \$200. ANY questions or concerns about your music must be directed to Nancy.

Since your marriage is a *sacred event*, the music should always be carefully selected to enhance the celebration of the Sacrament. The words and sounds must be appropriate for church. Your reception is the time for your favorite selections of secular music, not at Church.

FLOWERS, RUNNERS, CANDLES, BOWS

Runners are not permitted. Candles must be dripless. Only bows can be used on the pews and must be attached with bow clips or elastic – NO TAPE OR TACKS. Flowers may be provided for the main altar and other areas of the sanctuary, but they should be considered your gift to God and should not be removed after the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs may be taken during the ceremony. We ask only for respect and tact from photographers or videographer. Please advise video companies that they will be unable to use any wireless microphone operating on a frequency between 166.600 to 170.200 mhz.

ALCOHOL, RICE, BIRDSEED, BALLOONS

NO USE OF ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED ON PARISH GROUNDS. An intoxicated person will be asked to leave. A limousine company may not serve a toast or display alcohol on parish grounds or in front of the church. ***During the***

ceremony, limousines, buses, or any other special transportation, are not permitted to park on parish grounds or on the pavement in front of the church or to drive on any of the sidewalks.

Rice, any type of seed, confetti, steamers, etc. are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** while on parish grounds, Balloons pose an environmental hazard.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

The day and time should be set with the Priest. All who have an active part in the wedding, including Readers, should be at the rehearsal. *Be prompt and properly attired.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Sacramental preparation for your wedding includes Confession for Catholics, usually on the night of your rehearsal, but can be another time. See our current Parish bulletin for the regular Confession schedule. You can also make an appointment for private confession with the Priest of your choosing.

BRIDAL PROCESSION

Nothing may be added to the bridal procession or to the marriage ceremony without the express permission of the Priest. Please discuss your plans with him BEFORE making arrangements with anyone else.

ATTIRE & DECORUM

Remember that your wedding is a Church ceremony. Modesty in dresses, gowns and suits is expected. Please refrain from chewing gum in Church.

PROMPTNESS

The day of the wedding, the groom and ushers should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the ceremony; the bridal party should arrive **no later** than **TEN MINUTES** before the ceremony.

DIRECTIVES FOR PROSPECTIVE BRIDES AND GROOMS



Holy Child Parish
13 E. Evesham Road
Runnemede, NJ 08078
Fax 856-939-3878

St. Teresa Church
Evesham Rd & Black Horse Pike

St. Maria Goretti Church
321 Orchard Ave.

(effective June 2012)



PREPARATORY SESSIONS

You will meet with the Priest prior to your wedding for personalized marriage formation sessions. At one of the sessions, you will be asked to complete the *FOCCUS* marriage inventory. You must attend either the *Diocesan Marriage Preparation* or the *Engaged Encounter Program*. The Priest will give you information on these programs.

PAPERS REQUIRED FOR MARRIAGE

Catholics must have a baptismal certificate from the church of baptism ***issued within six (6) months of the date of your marriage.***

Non-Catholics need a certificate/statement of baptism, or an affidavit/statement of non-baptism from your parents.

Permission to Marry

Required from a parent if you are under 18 years of age.

Required from your home Parish if neither the bride nor groom are registered parishioners of Holy Child Parish. *Your home parish is determined by the Church at which you are currently registered, or by your current address,* (This applies even to individuals whose parents are current parishioners of Holy Child; to individuals who may have attended St. Teresa School; to individuals who received their sacraments at either St. Teresa or St. Maria Goretti Church.)

Affidavit Concerning Freedom to Marry

The priest will determine whether you need this document and how to obtain it.

Declaration of Nullity

Required from a Roman Catholic Marriage Tribunal if there is a living spouse from a former marriage. Please note that if the required Declaration of Nullity has not been obtained, no date may be set or reserved for a wedding.

Death Certificate

Required of a widow or widower.

New Jersey Marriage License

The license should be obtained from the town where the bride resides. If she is not a resident of New Jersey, the license is obtained from the groom's place of residence. If neither are residents of New Jersey, a license must be obtained from the Borough of Runnemede. A license is valid 3 to 30 days after issue. That means you must wait at least three days after issue and that it will expire after 30 days. *Please be aware of this requirement and plan accordingly. You CANNOT be married without a valid license.*

WEDDING CEREMONIES

We want your Sacramental Marriage to be memorable, but it must also be a celebration according to Church norms. There are many options, but the two most common are:

Nuptial Mass: Couples are encouraged to be married in the context of a Nuptial Mass, and this option is open even to mixed religions. A Catholic Bride and/or Groom, if properly disposed, may receive Communion under both species. The Eucharistic Fast is one hour before Communion, from all food and drink.

Marriage Ceremony Only: This is a marriage service that includes prayer, Liturgy of the Word, the Exchange of Marriage Vows, and the Blessing of the Church.

WEDDING TIMES

Saturdays: Weddings can be scheduled after 12:30 pm and no later than 2:00 pm.

Weekday Evenings: Weekday wedding times must be arranged with the priest. Weddings cannot begin after 7:00 pm.

The Wedding Mass may not be celebrated on a Sunday.

WITNESSES

The official witnesses (Best man/Maid or Matron of Honor) may be Catholic or non-Catholic, but must be 18 years of age. Children under 5 yrs. should not be included in your wedding party.

OFFERINGS AND FEES

The Church offering is \$350.00 for parishioners and for children of parishioners and \$500 for non-parishioners. A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is due when your date is booked, and the balance is due by your rehearsal date. Checks should be made out to Holy Child Parish. This fee does not include music.

This offering is for church expenses not for the celebrant. If you wish to remember the priest who officiates at your wedding, please do so separately.

There will be two Altar Servers at your wedding. The usual offering is \$20 cash for each.

These offerings should be taken care of on the night of the rehearsal.

