



Church of the Holy Eucharist

Follow Christ, Love All, Grow Disciples

"And the two shall become one"



PLANNING YOUR MARRIAGE

Dear Engaged Couple:

Congratulations on your engagement! We are very happy that you have decided to share the celebration of your marriage with us. As your parish community, we want to help make your celebration truly special. We know that much planning, time and energy goes into wedding preparations. Perhaps you already find yourself bogged down with all those details. We do hope, though, that you will place enough emphasis on the celebration at church to further deepen and strengthen your mutual relationship.

We invite you to become intimately involved in planning the wedding ceremony. The celebration of the sacrament of marriage should be a testimony of your desire to have faith as an integral part of your marriage.

The information in this brochure is designed to help you with all of this planning. It outlines items that need to be addressed before your first meeting with the priest or deacon. We will be happy to assist you in any way possible and pray that you will be truly blessed as you set forth on this new life adventure together.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Andrew Jamieson, Pastor

THE DETAILS

GETTING MARRIED AT THE CHURCH:

- The bride or groom should be a registered member of the the Church of the Holy Eucharist for at least 3 months prior to booking a wedding .
- Please complete a Marriage Preparation Program with the priest or deacon and attend a diocesan Pre-Cana program.

CHURCH WEDDING TIMES:

- **Friday Evening 5:00 pm**
- **Saturday Noon or 2:00 pm**

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

This is your opportunity to reflect on and explore the sacramental and vocational nature of your life-long commitment in marriage. The Church of the Holy Eucharist will do all we can to make sure you are prepared for this important, holy and life-long commitment. Through the program, you and your fiancé will discuss all aspects of marriage: Spiritual, relational and practical.

The Diocesan Pre-Cana preparation program fulfills the standard marriage preparation requirements for the Diocese of Trenton.

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Enclosed you'll find a checklist to follow as you move through your preparation process. The checklist ensures you have enough time to truly benefit from each step and have enough time to work on relationship issues that may come to light. We have discovered that if preparation begins too close to the wedding day, the couple tends to get caught up in the wedding day preparation. They have a hard time giving adequate energy to important aspects of their own relationship.

FEES

The parish asks a marriage preparation fee of \$200 if the celebration is in the main church, or \$100 if in the chapel

- A \$50.00 deposit is made to secure the date—check payable to Church of the Holy Eucharist.
- The balance of \$150.00 is due two weeks before the wedding payable to Church of the Holy Eucharist.
- The fee for the wedding is refundable if the wedding is canceled.
- Wedding Coordinator fee—\$175. Check payable to Nicole McNally
- Fees for Accompanist \$250.00 and for Cantor \$200 are separate and are paid to them two weeks before the wedding. Contact the Music Director for more information—rpeiffer@holyeucharist.org

Our Marriage preparation process includes:

- Welcome meeting with the priest or deacon
- Administration of a pre-marriage inventory called "FOCCUS"
- Meetings to review results of the FOCCUS inventory with the priest or deacon
- Wedding workshop
- Individual meeting(s) with a wedding coordinator
- Production of a wedding program if desired
- Wedding rehearsal with coordinator
- Parish wedding coordinator on day of wedding

YOUR FIRST MEETING

As soon as your engagement is official, but before you set a date, please complete the form found at holyeucharist.org/about-us/marriage if you have not already done so. Upon receipt, we will contact you and schedule your first meeting with the priest or deacon, who may also serve as the celebrant for your wedding.

What happens at your first meeting ?

This will be a casual getting-to-know-you session. It's a time to discuss your hopes and dreams about marriage.

- Catholic persons need to present a newly issued certificate of Baptism with notations of all other sacraments (communion, confirmation and any prior marriages in the Church). Baptized non-Catholics need a copy of their baptism certificate only.
- As part of your first meeting, couples will take a pre-marital inventory called FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) (FOCCUSinc.com)
- Marriage preparation in the Church requires a pre-nuptial investigation (PNI), which is all about your marital readiness. This takes place as well with the priest or deacon celebrating your marriage.

When part one of the PNI is complete, you will register for a marriage preparation program provided by the Diocese of Trenton

Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program

Once you have met with the priest or deacon for the first time, the Diocese of Trenton requires that you register for a marriage preparation program. Program options include:

- a parish Pre-Caná Conferences (offered at other parishes then Holy Eucharist
- a diocesan Pre Caná program called "God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage (based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body)
- Attendance at a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend
- To Trust Again remarriage Workshop (for all couples in which one or both parties has a prior marriage

Information on all these programs can be found at dioceseoftrenton.org/precana

THE NEXT STEP

After completing your diocesan marriage preparation program, **make an appointment with the parish office (609 268 8383) to meet again with your priest or deacon** to discuss the results of your FOCCUS inventory and to plan a meaningful ceremony that reflects the sacredness of your marriage and the uniqueness of your relationship.

If you are both Catholic, a nuptial mass is recommended. If you're an interfaith couple, a nuptial ceremony may be a better option. We have a wedding coordinator that will assist you in planning your wedding liturgy.

Catholic persons should plan to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the wedding to fully prepare you for the graces of a sacramental marriage . The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturdays from 3:30 pm—4:30 pm or by appointment with the priest.

It is highly recommended that all aspects of marriage preparation at the parish be completed by six weeks before the wedding, allowing you to focus on personal reflection and last minute details.



Music, Flowers, Photographer, License

MUSIC

Our Music Director organizes the music and plays for all weddings held here at Holy Eucharist. Please meet with the Music Director at least four months prior to the wedding to choose the music for the wedding ceremony. Contact Regan Peiffer at rpeiffer@holyeucharist.org.

FLOWERS/DECORATIONS

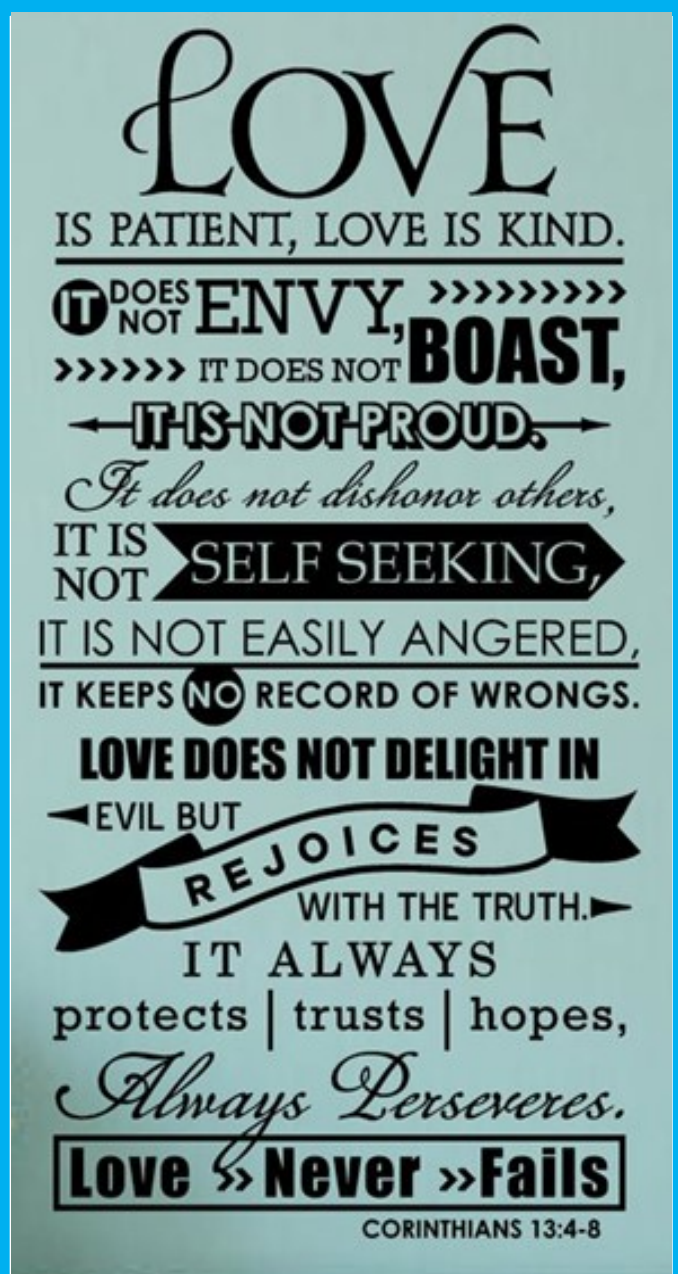
One or two arrangements of flowers are the usual complement for a wedding. Please refrain from throwing of flower petals, leaves, rice, confetti, birdseed or any other materials inside or outside of the church. We discourage a helium balloon launch, as they are environmentally unsafe. Bubbles may be used outside only. Any other items should be discussed with the wedding coordinator.

PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

Please stress to your photographer and/or videographer the policy of our church. We expect them to be discreet in doing their job. Your wedding is a joyful event but is also a solemn occasion and takes place in a religious setting. Two copies of a letter are enclosed—please be sure to give a copy to your photographer or videographer. After the ceremony, the photographer may take pictures in the church. However, there may be limitations posed by another event or service. If the wedding is delayed, photos after the ceremony will not be permitted. Photographers/videographers are to check with the wedding coordinator and priest or deacon prior to the start of the wedding.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

You will need to make these arrangements yourself. Please bring the license to the wedding rehearsal. In turn we will take care of mailing these certificates to the proper township office. Licenses are to be arranged for at the municipality of your residence or in Tabernacle.



STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US

520 Medford Lakes Road
Tabernacle, NJ 08088

CALL US

609 268 8383

VISIT US

www.holyeucharist.org

PRAY WITH US

Mass times:
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 6:00 pm

RECEIVE OUR EMAIL UPDATES

<https://tinyurl.com/hecemails>

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Facebook.com/holyeucharistchurch



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