



ST. ROSE OF LIMA

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations on your engagement! Know that you are in our prayers as you begin your preparations for your wedding ceremony. There are many options for wedding ceremonies, thank you for choosing a traditional church ceremony. We hope the following guidelines will assist you in your preparation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the rectory office.

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME

Weddings may be celebrated on any day of the week, but the preference is for ceremonies to take place on the weekend. On Saturday, ceremonies can be scheduled for 10am, 11am, 12noon, 1pm or 2pm. Sunday ceremonies can be scheduled at 2pm or 3pm. Ceremonies on other days of the week depend on the parish schedule. We ask that the couple themselves contact the rectory to set the date and time of your ceremony.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

The Diocese of Bridgeport requires that all couples planning marriage attend a Marriage Preparation Workshop (more commonly known as Pre-Cana). The parish hosts a workshop once a year, but you may also attend a preparation program through the Diocese or in the Diocese where you currently live. A certificate of attendance is required to be presented to the clergy officiating at your ceremony.

SACRAMENTAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

For the Catholic party, a newly issued Baptism certificate dated no more than 6 months prior to your marriage must be provided as well as a copy of your First Communion and Confirmation certificates. If the parish where you received your sacraments has closed, please call the Diocese where the parish was located to locate your sacramental records.

In the case of a non-Catholic Christian party, a copy of your Baptism record is required. This does not need to be a new certificate.

In the case of a non-Christian party, no documents are required.

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

If one of the parties was previously married, you must provide documentation that the marriage was granted a Declaration of Nullity or Annulment.

If you need information about the Annulment process, please contact the rectory office.

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

A marriage license issued by the Town Clerk's Office is required. For couples marrying in Newtown, the license must be obtained from the Newtown Town Clerk office at 3 Primrose Lane. The license is valid for 65 days.

BANS OF MARRIAGE

For three weeks prior to the wedding, the names of both the bride and groom are in the church bulletin. This gives anyone who may have a valid objection to contact the church.

PRE MATRIMONIAL INVESTIGATION (PMI)

Six months prior to your ceremony, we will contact you to make an appointment to meet with the officiant to complete the Pre-Matrimonial Form. This serves the purposes of both the church and state. The first part of the form asks biographical and sacramental information (name, date and place of birth, address, parents' names, religion of the parties and dates and places where sacraments were received). The second part is concerned with the freedom to marry (previous marriages, if any, and questions related to your freedom to enter a marriage). The final part is a series of questions regarding the vows you will speak and the promises you will make to one another.

DISPENSATION

A dispensation is required for a Catholic who is marrying a non-Catholic. This form is filled out at the time of the PMI. It asks the Catholic party to respect the religious convictions and to promise to raise your children in the Catholic faith.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

The wedding rehearsal usually takes place the day before the wedding. All members of the wedding party, readers, and parents of the bride and groom should attend the rehearsal.

WEDDING PARTY

The state requires two witnesses for the marriage ceremony. They do not need to be Catholic, however we ask that they respect our traditions.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY

A couple may choose to have their marriage during a Mass, or in a ceremony only. You will receive a book, TOGETHER FOR LIFE, for you to use to choose prayers, readings, vows and blessings for your ceremony.

CHURCH FLOWERS

You may have any type of flowers in the Church. It is customary to leave the flowers in church after the ceremony. You may place flowers on either side of the tabernacle, in front of the altar or on pillars beside the altar. If you choose to have flowers by the tabernacle, we have liners that the florist can use.

There are 20 pews on either side of the center aisle. If you decide to use pew markers, please do not use tape to attach the markers. Please remove pew markers after wedding ceremony.

Contact your florist if you decide to use an aisle runner. The florists provide the runner. The aisle is 64ft long.

MUSIC

Contact our church organist Mr. Joe Jacovino at josephjacovino@gmail.com to arrange for music. Guest musicians are welcomed, but they must meet with Mr. Jacovino to review parish guidelines.

LIVESTREAMING

Our church is equipped with an excellent livestreaming service. This is available for those who have guests or family who are not able to attend the ceremony. A stipend of \$ 75 is required for using this service.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Flowers are an essential part of a ceremony. We simply ask that they be appropriate for a church setting. We ask that you provide two floral pieces that will remain in the church following your ceremony as a gift to the parish. Pew decorations are allowed, but we ask that you do not use tape to attach them to the pews.

WEDDING RUNNERS

If you would like to use a runner, the aisle is 64 ft. long. The florist will provide the runner.

PHOTOGRAPHY

You may have both video and still photography during your ceremony. Please ask the photographer/videographer to introduce themselves to the officiant prior to the ceremony to review parish guidelines.

UNPLUGGED WEDDINGS

If you would like your guests NOT to take pictures during your ceremony, please let the officiant know so that he can announce that prior to your ceremony.

RECEIVING LINES

You are welcome to have your receiving line at the church before you leave for your reception. You may use either the vestibule or the Mary Shrine for the receiving line.

CONFETTI, RICE, BALLOON, BUBBLES

Please ask your guests to shower you with blessings as you leave. Both insurance and environmental issues prohibit the above items.

WEDDING STIPENDS

- We will assign two altar servers for your wedding. It is customary to offer a monetary “thank you” of \$10-\$20 per server.
- There is a \$35 custodian fee. This fee should be in cash and given to the priest at the rehearsal.
- If you use livestreaming, the fee is \$75, paid in cash.
- The suggested church fee is \$250.
- It is customary to provide a stipend to the clergy as a thank you for his assistance in planning, guiding and officiating at your ceremony. This is a free will offering.
- Organist fee is established between the couple and the musician prior to the ceremony.

