



ST. ROSE OF LIMA

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS AND THE BEST OF GOD'S BLESSINGS AS YOU
M BEGIN YOUR PREPARATIONS FOR MARRIAGE!!

We are happy to welcome you to celebrate your special day of faith and love in our parish church. We will be more than happy to assist you in any way possible. We ask the following guidelines be observed for your wedding in our parish.

WHO MAY MARRY IN ST. ROSE CHURCH?

Only registered parishioners may marry in this parish. In the Catholic tradition, the church of the bride takes precedence, which simply means the bride should be married in her own parish church. In the case of a Catholic groom and a bride who is not Catholic, the marriage may take place here. For any other cases, a letter of permission must be obtained from the parish in which the Catholic party is a registered member (if both are Catholic, only the bride needs to obtain permission) in order for the wedding to take place, and the case must be discussed with one of the parish priests.

NOTIFICATION OF MARRIAGE

The couple themselves must make arrangement for their marriage and must meet with one of the priests before any date is set. Notification must take place at least eight months prior to the marriage so necessary preparations may be completed. Special considerations may be necessary due to circumstances; if so, this is to be discussed with one of the priests.

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME

Weddings may be scheduled on any day depending on the existing parish schedule. We will accept weddings on Sundays for parishioners only. Weddings may be scheduled on:

- Friday evenings after 5 p.m.
- Saturday mornings after 10:30 a.m.
- Saturday afternoons until 2 p.m.
- Saturday evenings after 7 p.m.
- Sunday afternoons after 2:30 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Every couple is required by the Diocese of Bridgeport to complete a marriage preparation program, either a "Marriage Preparation" (Pre-Cana) workshop or an "Engaged Encounter Weekend". Ideally, this is to be done no later than six months prior to the wedding. These programs fill rapidly, so early registration is suggested. The registration forms, which provide all necessary details of these programs, may be obtained from our parish office. (St. Rose Parish provides a private pre-cana for couples being married in the parish, once yearly).

CHURCH PAPERWORK REQUIRED

The following paperwork is required for a couple to marry in the Catholic Church.

1. Pre-Matrimonial Investigation Form (PMI). This form provides the Church with sufficient information so as to allow the marriage to take place in the church: biographic data, freedom to marry, acceptance of responsibilities and commitment.
2. Dispensation. In some cases, special permission is required for a wedding to take place in the Catholic Church. In case of a Catholic marrying a member of another religion, or no religion, the Catholic party is required to make a written promise the child/children born of the marriage will be baptized and raised as Catholics.

SACRAMENTAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

For each Catholic party, the following records are required:

1. A. newly-issued baptismal certificate (this must be dated within six months of the marriage).
2. Records showing the dates when, and places where, the First Communion and Confirmation sacraments were received.

A member of another religion who is Christian needs to supply a record showing the date and place of his/her baptism.

CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

The State of Connecticut no longer requires blood testing for both the bride and groom. You may apply for your license in any town in Connecticut but it is to be registered in the Town of Newtown. Please be aware there are certain waiting periods; please contact the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall for details.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

For three weeks prior to the marriage, the names of each couple will be printed in the church bulletin. This not only allows the community to pray for you, but also to come forward with any information that may affect the marriage before it takes place.

WHO MAY WITNESS YOUR MARRIAGE?

Any of the clergy (priest or deacon) of the parish may witness your marriage. Usually the clergyman with whom you make the initial contact follows through during your preparation program.

You may invite another clergyman or woman to be present if either the bride or groom is not Catholic. You may also invite a priest who is a member of your family or who is a friend to witness your marriage. If other clergy are to be present, we ask that you inform us of this during the initial interview.

PLANNING THE CEREMONY

The clergyman with whom you are planning your marriage will spend some time with you discussing your ceremony. Time should be allotted for this in your planning. To assist you with planning the details of the ceremony, a booklet entitled Together for Life will be provided to each couple either at the marriage preparation workshop or by the parish clergy.

THE WEDDING PARTY

While it is not required for members of the wedding party to be Catholic, it is strongly suggested you choose individuals who will be able to enter into the spirit of a religious ceremony. Children who are members of the wedding party should be at least age 3.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

At a time convenient for all concerned, a rehearsal will be scheduled. All involved in the wedding are asked to attend the rehearsal; this includes the wedding party, parents, readers, and anyone else involved in the wedding ceremony.

CONFESSIONS

Certainly all members of the wedding party, especially the bride and/or groom, should celebrate the Sacrament of Penance prior to the wedding. There is not sufficient time at rehearsal for this, so please attend confession during the regular parish confessions time period or by special appointment with a priest.

CHURCH FLOWERS & AISLE RUNNER

You may have any type of flowers you wish in the Church. It is customary to leave the flowers after the ceremony for Church use. There are a total of 20 rows of pews. If there are other weddings scheduled for the same weekend, we encourage you to share the expense of church flowers with them. Please call the Rectory office for names and phone numbers. Your florist can also order your aisle runner which needs to be

approximately 64 feet long.

ALTAR SERVERS

Two altar servers will be assisting the priest during the wedding ceremony. While it is up to each couple to determine the amount, \$10 is the customary tip for their services.

CEREMONY MUSIC — JosephJACOVINO@GMAIL.COM

It is the responsibility of each couple to make arrangements for the music at their wedding ceremony. This may be done by contacting our church organist who will assist you in planning the music and by contacting vocalists or other musicians. All musical arrangements must be cleared by our organist. You may choose to have an other organist to play at your wedding, but if you choose to do so, diocesan regulations mandate a bench fee to be paid to the parish organist

PHOTOGRAPHERS

You may have both still and video photography during the wedding ceremony. It is normal courtesy for each photographer to check with the celebrant of the wedding for any regulations. Please ask your photographers to do so.

CONFETTI, RICE, BIRD SEED, BALLOONS

Please ask your guests to shower you with blessings only! The throwing of rice, bird seed or confetti is not allowed for safety and insurance reasons. Also, the State of Connecticut prohibits balloon launches for environmental reasons, so we ask your compliance with these regulations.

CHURCH FEES

There is a \$35 custodian fee for each wedding which covers the cost of setting up for the rehearsal and ceremony as well as for the cleaning afterwards.

The offering for the parish and the gift for the clergy are free will offerings on the part of the couple. The usual donation for the church is \$250; this donation is used to help maintain the parish. A separate gift to the clergy performing the ceremony is left to the couple's discretion and generosity.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLORAL DECORATIONS FOR THE CHURCH

1) Floral arrangements

There are several choices for placement of floral arrangements in the Church:

- back altar: 2 gold vases are available to be filled by your florist. If vases are used, arrangements should be small and one-sided because of the limited space available. Liners for these vases need to be picked up in advance.
- floor in front of main altar: one piece is needed and it should be large, full and showy.
- on pillars: two pillars are available; one is placed on either side of the main altar. Basket or vase arrangements may be placed on each.

2) Pew markers

There are 40 pews, 20 on either side of the center aisle. If pew markers are used, please attach them to the pews with pew clips, ribbon, covered wire or rubber bands only. Tape is not permitted. Pew markers may be removed from the Church after the wedding ceremony.

3) Aisle carpet

A 64 foot carpet is needed for St. Rose Church. The parish does not provide the carpet, it should be ordered from your florist.



ST. ROSE OF LIMA
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH