



**SAINT TERESA OF
CALCUTTA PARISH**
CHURCHES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Marriage



PLEASE NOTE:

The information in this packet includes the general practices at St Teresa of Calcutta. In light of pandemic restrictions, certain guidelines and protocols are subject to change.



WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

Two Become One

There will be much to do over the next year to prepare and with proper planning and the right prioritizing, you will celebrate not only a great ceremony but a wonderful life together.

Marriage as A Sacrament

Sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace. The Church believes that one of the strongest images we have to exemplify how God loves, cares and deals with us is in the sacrament of marriage. We believe that in this sacrament a man and a woman become one in body, mind and spirit in a union that is permanent, exclusive and open to life. Sacraments are very special moments in the life of every Catholic and in the life of the whole church as well. In the Catholic Church, it is not the blessing of the priest or deacon that makes the sacrament become a reality, rather it is the giving and receiving of the Consent of the couple. The celebration of the sacraments is never a private ceremony but rather moments in time where the entire faith community celebrates with the couple.

Getting Started

The Sacrament of Marriage and its preparation are taken seriously at our parish. In asking the Church to witness your marriage, you are tacitly noting your willingness to cooperate with its theology and protocol. The priest or deacon witnessing your wedding needs to certify that you share in and believe what the Church teaches about marriage. Begin each day praying for yourself and your future spouse that God will continue to ripen His grace in you as you approach the sacrament of marriage.

A Prayer for Couples Preparing for Marriage

Please make our relationship a
great and holy adventure

May our joining be a sacred space

May the two of us find rest
here, a haven for our souls

Remove from us any temptation to judge
one another or to direct one another

We surrender to You our
conflicts and our burdens

We know You are our Answer and our Rock

Help us not forget

Bring us together in heart and
mind as well as body

Remove from us the temptation
to criticize or be cruel

May we not be tempted by
fantasies and projections

But guide us in the way of holiness

Save us from darkness

May this relationship be a burst of light

May it be a fountain of love and
wisdom for us, for our family, for
our community, for our world

May this bond be a channel for
Your love and healing, a vehicle
of Your grace and power

As lessons come and challenges grow, let
us not be tempted to forsake each other

Let us always remember that in each
other we have the most beautiful
woman, the most beautiful man

The strongest one

The sacred one in whose
arms we are repaired

May we remain young in this relationship

May we grow wise in this relationship

Bring us what You desire for us

And show us how You would have us be

Thank you, dear God

You who are the cement between us

Thank You for this love.

Amen.

WEDDING CHECKLIST

OVERVIEW

- 1. Initial meeting with Fr. Benny to discuss process and date**
- 2. Payment of wedding fee to confirm and reserve your date**
- 3. Schedule your rehearsal**
- 4. Attend Pre-Cana and submit certificate**
- 5. Attend God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage and submit certificate**
- 6. Submit Baptismal certificates**
- 7. Meet for the FOCCUS Inventory**
- 8. Meet to review Inventory Results**
- 9. Consult with music director to discuss the music**
- 10. Consult with the liturgy planner to choose readings and receive guidelines on how to apply for a marriage license**
- 11. Final meeting with Fr. Benny**
- 12. Rehearsal!**
- 13. Wedding Day!**



In Depth WEDDING CHECKLIST



In order to guide you through the Marriage process at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, we have explained the Wedding Checklist in more detail below.

Please note: All appointments are made through: terri@montclaircatholics.org

1. Initial meeting with Fr. Benny to discuss process and date

Meet with Fr. Benny at least one year in advance of the desired date, prior to making any other wedding arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE YOU MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION OF THE PASTOR IF:

- (1) you wish a priest/deacon outside the parish to officiate or
- (2) you request the presence of any non-Catholic clergy.

2. Schedule your rehearsal

Rehearsals are booked around events already scheduled in the church. We have a first come first served policy. You may want to book your rehearsal at the time of your initial contact with the Parish so as to avoid conflict with other church events.

3. Attend Pre-Cana and submit certificate

Pre Cana offers practical insights and assistance in building a successful marriage. Sessions include talks or discussions followed by the couple's reflection and dialogue. Topics covered include: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Family of Origin, Finances and more. A certificate of attendance is given at the conclusion. This should be presented to your witnessing priest/deacon to demonstrate partial fulfillment of this requirement.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO REGISTER FOR PRE-CANA PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- ◀ If you have been divorced from any marriage, contact the priest or deacon preparing you and let him know before registering for Pre-Cana.
- ◀ Please consult the Archdiocese website <https://www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/family-life/marriage-preparation> for registration information.

4. Attend God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage and submit certificate

This program is different from Pre Cana and is a requirement of the Archdiocese of Newark. God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage is designed to help engaged couples understand and embrace a Catholic vision of married love. The God's

Plan session provides a full catechesis of the Church's teaching, in an uplifting manner that resonates within the human heart. Based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, this session is intended to enhance a key component of marriage preparation: catechesis in the theology of marriage and the gift of human sexuality.

5. Submit Baptismal certificates

Submit a new Baptismal certificate. You may obtain this by contacting the Parish office of the Church where you were Baptized.

6. Meet for the FOCCUS Inventory

Complete the FOCCUS Inventory. This is an awareness tool designed to aid in your communication and ongoing understanding of each other.

7. Meet to review Inventory Results

Schedule a meeting to go over the results of the SURVEY.

8. Consult with music director, to discuss the music and liturgy planner to choose readings

The parish Pastoral Associate for Music is the contracted organist/pianist for all weddings at St Teresa of Calcutta, and will oversee all music planning and preparation as well as supervise all musicians booked for the wedding. Along with the Music Director, a vocalist from our staff of cantors will be provided to lead your guests in song during the wedding liturgy. The liturgy planner will assist you in choosing readings for your wedding as well as instruct you on how to obtain a marriage license.

9. Final meeting

You will meet with Fr. Benny one more time before the big day!

10. Rehearsal!

A staff member will be present to lead you through the rehearsal so you are prepared for your Wedding ceremony.

11. Wedding Day!

The day has finally arrived! We wish you God's blessings always and a lifetime of love and happiness!



OUR MUSIC MINISTRY seeks to provide music that reflects the beauty of every couple on their wedding day at St Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Our Pastoral Associate for Music collaborates with each couple during the preparation process, guiding them to select music that is meaningful and heartfelt.

There are many liturgical opportunities for including music, both instrumental and vocal, in your upcoming wedding ceremony. This includes ceremonies with and without a full Communion Mass. St Teresa of Calcutta Parish provides piano, organ and a vocalist for each wedding, though couples may request to feature other instruments such as trumpet, flute or violin and/or additional vocalist from our parish musician staff.

The music we use in church is different than what you hear on the radio because it is specifically written for Catholic liturgy, that is, it's liturgical music. Not only does liturgical music have lyrics that fit the theme of the liturgy, but more importantly, liturgical music needs to fulfill the specified function of each part of the liturgy. Every liturgy has assigned words and actions that happen in a specific order. The music used during the liturgy must "serve the liturgy" so that the music fits the purpose, length, and assigned texts, if any, for each particular moment.

Meetings to plan wedding music generally take place about 1 – 2 months before your confirmed wedding date, following the completion of your necessary paperwork with our Parish Office. You will be provided a list of appropriate music to choose from for the liturgy. Classical music, full of melodies with rich musical expression, is best suited for your special and sacred day. Some favorites include:

Canon in D
– JOHANN PACHELBEL

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring
– J.S. BACH

Bridal Chorus
– RICHARD WAGNER

Air from Water Music
– G.F. HANDEL

Largo, from Xerxes
– G.F. HANDEL

"Ode to Joy"
– LUDWIG VON BEETHOVEN

Wedding March
– FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Hornpipe from Water Music
– G.F. HANDEL

Our Music Ministry looks forward to celebrating your love through Music!

Wedding Policies AT STC

Here are some helpful pieces of information which should assist you in preparing to celebrate the sacrament of marriage at St. Teresa of Calcutta

- ◀ Rehearsals are booked around events already scheduled in the church. We have a first come first served policy.
- ◀ The Parish has parking facilities behind the grammar school building.
- ◀ A wedding ceremony that begins late, for any reason, may be reduced in time with portions of the ceremony omitted. This is at the discretion of the celebrant and/or pastor. We ask that the groom arrive at the Church a half hour before the wedding begins and the bride should be somewhere on Church property at least 15 minutes before so as to ensure beginning the ceremony on time. Please be sure to share this with all vendors, photographers, limousine drivers, videographers, etc.
- ◀ Photographers and videographers are welcome in our church during the ceremony. We ask, however, that they not be a distraction from the ceremony. All will be instructed to observe the reverence, solemnity and sacredness of the ceremony. Photographers and video people are not ever permitted in the sanctuary of the Church and must remain seated during the ceremony. If time permits after the Wedding Liturgy without affecting the preparation of the Church for the next Liturgy or commitment, pictures of the bridal party may be taken in the Church. However, there is no entry into the Sanctuary area of the Church.
- ◀ Flowers are very welcome in the Church.
- ◀ We do not permit the use of aisle runners.
- ◀ We would appreciate if your guests did not throw anything inside or outside the Church, including flower petals, rice etc.
- ◀ Stipends and donations: These matters are addressed in your initial contact with the Parish Office, and meeting with Fr. Benny.
- ◀ A license from the Township of Montclair is required for the marriage to be civilly valid. Please bring the license to the rehearsal as we cannot officiate at a wedding without one.
- ◀ Peace and blessings as you continue with your marriage preparation. We are committed to making your celebration beautiful and meaningful both for you and your guests. Please be assured of our assistance and prayers as we journey together to the altar of God on your wedding day.

Our weekend wedding schedule is as follows:



- ◀ **Friday afternoon weddings** are scheduled with the permission of the pastor.
- ◀ **Saturday weddings** are scheduled for 11 am, 1 pm OR 3 pm only.
- ◀ **Sunday afternoon weddings** are scheduled with the permission of the pastor.

