



ST. JAMES RC CHURCH

429 ROUTE 25A

EAST SETAUKET, NEW YORK 11733

631-941-4141

Wedding Information Booklet

*“May the Lord in his kindness
strengthen the consent you have declared
before the Church,
and graciously bring to fulfillment
his blessing within you.*

*What God joins together,
let no one put asunder.”*

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, n 64



Revised April 2022

Dear Friends-

“Will you marry me?”

-the words commonly used in the proposal of marriage

“You have come together in this Church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church’s minister and this Community”

-from the Rite of Marriage, n. 23

With these words, the Pastoral Staff and the parish community of St. James joyfully congratulate you on your engagement and extend our prayerful support of your upcoming marriage. We join you and your family in looking forward to the day when you will jointly pledge and accept your real and exclusive love for each other in the presence of God and the Church.

The preparation for Christian marriage is itself a journey of faith. It is a special opportunity for the engaged to rediscover and deepen the faith of Baptism. In this way, they come to recognize and freely accept their vocation to follow Christ and to serve the Kingdom of God in married life.

*-excerpt from Encyclical: **Familiaris Consortio**, St. Pope John Paul II*

Your love becomes, and is a sign of God’s love among us and is a reminder for the whole Church, of Christ’s commitment to each of us, and our care for one another. Thus, the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony is communal as well as personal.

To assist you with the necessary preparations for your wedding day, and to answer questions you may have regarding this important and sacred event in your life, and in the life of the Catholic community, we have prepared the following guidelines..

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the priest (or deacon) with whom you are working:

Reverend Robert Kuznik (631) 941-4141 x 322

Reverend Robert Scheckenback (Fr. Bob) (631) 941-4141 x 320

Deacon Louis Anetrella (631) 941-4141



SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

The Parish of St. James provides the following times for wedding celebrations. These times have been established to allow sufficient time for your wedding to be the prayerful and sacramental time it is intended to be, while also making accommodations for other parish events. We ask that you adhere to these guidelines and work closely with the priest/deacon with whom you meet.

Friday:	Afternoon, until 5pm
Saturday:	12:30 pm and 2:30 pm

You are welcome to have a Catholic priest or deacon with whom you may have a special relationship, officiate at your wedding.

- *Please note that all visiting Roman Catholic clergy who have been invited to celebrate a wedding at St. James will need proper delegation to do so.*
- *All visiting clergy are required to provide a letter from their Diocese or order, indicating that they are in good standing.*

The celebration of Matrimony can take place as either a Nuptial Mass *or* as a Nuptial Ceremony; the option is yours. ***Before you make your decision as to whether you will choose a Nuptial Mass or Ceremony*** we suggest you consider the faith of both families and your wedding guests. If they are not church going Catholics or do not share the Catholic faith, it is/might be more appropriate and considerate to celebrate a Ceremony rather than a Mass. Kindly give this careful thought and discussion.

The Wedding Rehearsal can be scheduled through the Parish Office

When planning “decorations” and flowers, we ask that you be aware of the Church Liturgical Seasons, especially Advent and Lent. These seasons have a special religious character and require sensitivity in your choice of decorations and color schemes.

We will not permit the moving of, or change of, liturgical decorations in the church at any time. (i.e., seasonal banners, Advent wreath, Nativity creche etc.)

You will begin to discuss and plan the Wedding Liturgy. There are options to consider in the planning of the ritual itself. These options are detailed for you in a booklet (*Together for Life*) provided to you by the parish. Please go through the book and select what is most appropriate for you as a couple.

Please contact the parish office at least six weeks before the wedding day, to ensure that all paperwork and requirements have been fulfilled.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- 1. Baptismal Certificates*
- 2. Marriage License*
- 3. Completion of Marriage Instruction*

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:

FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLICS: Our church of baptism becomes our church of record for our life. Every Sacrament is registered at your church of baptism. Therefore, we need a **Newly Issued** (updated) baptismal certificate from the Catholic parties. Call your church of baptism and they will send it to you (the original Certificate will not have *any* information on it except baptism). This also allows us to notify your church of baptism about your marriage, where it will be recorded and registered. For Catholics baptized at St. James, we will have your baptismal certificate on file.

FOR BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLICS: If possible, a copy of your original baptism certificate would be helpful. At the very least, we need to know the Christian denomination to which they belong *and* whether or not the person was baptized.

Any information you may need, or questions you may have, regarding a mixed religion marriage (Roman Catholic and non-Catholic), will be explained when you meet initially with the deacon or priest.

There is a simple procedure (dispensation) to get permission from the Diocese. *Only* the Catholic party is asked to promise to raise their children in our faith. It is very important that couples of different religious traditions spend time discussing all aspects of their different religious backgrounds.

NEW YORK STATE MARRIGE LICENSE

The New York State Civil law requires couples to obtain a marriage license.

(This applies even if you have married in a civil ceremony and are coming to the church to have your marriage convalidated.) You may obtain a marriage license at any Town or City Clerk's Office in New York State.

Town of Brookhaven: One Independence Hill in Farmingville 631-451-9102. *The automated message at this number will detail the documents you need to bring to the Clerk's Office.* Both partners must appear in person to obtain the license. By New York State law, the marriage may not be performed for twenty-four (**24**) hours from the time of the issuance of the marriage license. The license is valid for sixty (**60**) days from the date of issue.

License and Wedding fees are to be brought to the Parish Office before the rehearsal

MARRIAGE PREPARATION/INSTRUCTION

The Church teaches that marriage is a sacred and irrevocable covenant, and takes seriously its responsibility to help each couple prepare for their vocation of marriage. Marriage preparation supports a couple in their journey towards a healthy and holy union.

PRE-CANA AND FOCCUS

The Diocese of Rockville Centre requires each engaged couple to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage by attending a Marriage Instruction/Preparation Class in either the bride's or groom's parish or through the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

ST. JAMES PARISH PRE-CANA

The schedule is Friday 7:30pm-10:30pm, Saturday 9:30am-10:00pm. The program is parish based, and led by trained couples as well as a priest/deacon, who will facilitate a series of discussions designed to help you, as a couple, explore various aspects of your relationship. Topics include: goals, values, conflict, communication, sexuality, children, finances and faith. The priest/deacon with whom you are planning your celebration will provide you with the specific Spring and Fall dates.

F.O.C.C.U.S

This part of the preparation is done via the internet. The parish will set up your account for you. You will then receive a confirmation by E-mail from a FOCCUS administration representative who will provide you with an ID number, which will allow you to log on and complete the questionnaire.

After completing and submitting your answers to this questionnaire, a bar-graph printout will be created to allow you to reflect on different aspects of your relationship. Deacon Lou will contact you and facilitate the results.

Please see the Pre-Cana/FOCCUS brochure for information, dates and fees.

LITURGY PLANNING

- Please refer to the "Together for Life" Booklet for the content of the Liturgy (prayers, readings, optional formats).
 - There is a "tear-out sheet" in the back of the book, which is what you submit to us with your choices (it can act as an outline for the ceremony, particularly if you are putting together a program).
 - Please be aware, there are cultural practices that may not be in our Marriage Rite, nor consistent with our beliefs about marriage
- ❖ The Liturgy of the Word, "Exchange of Consent" (vows), and the celebration of the Eucharist (if the wedding includes the celebration of Mass), ***are always primary and should never be overshadowed***

Marriage, when celebrated within the Church, is not only a personal, public and communal event, but it is also a liturgical event that, as such, is governed by the rubrics of the Church. In our Theological and Liturgical discipline and ritual, the *Minister* of the Sacrament being celebrated is always **last**. For example, at a Sunday celebration, the Priest enters last; at confirmation, it is the Bishop, and for the Sacrament of Marriage, it is the Couple. The presider is not always the minister of the sacrament. The presider, usually understood to be a priest, deacon or bishop, does not "marry" the couple; the couple, themselves are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage. The presider serves as the Church's official witness.

Please establish the order of procession for your bridal party prior to the rehearsal

A revision of the former Rite for Marriage (2016) includes several changes and updates affecting various aspects of the Order of Matrimony as compared to the old Rite of Marriage.

LITURGICAL PROCESSION

Cross Bearer
Acolytes (Altar Servers/candle bearers)
Readers
Presider (Priest or Deacon)

“Bridesmaids and Ushers”
Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor
Groom’s Parents
Bride’s Parents

BRIDE AND GROOM

**This is the actual Liturgical Procession from the Rite of Catholic Marriage mentioned above. In the “Together for Life Booklet” there are a number of other acceptable options (including Other_____).*

WEDDING MUSIC

Miriam Salerno Co- Music Director
516-263-5173

Email: mimals@optonline.net

Richard Foley Co- Music Director
631-806-1794

rfoley@stjamessetauket.org

Miriam Salerno is the Music Director and contact for Weddings. ALL music related issues or questions can be discussed with her. Make sure you phone or e-mail her for an appointment to go over your Wedding Music. The Music Selections themselves (updated 2022) have been added to the end of this booklet.

LIVE-STREAMING

We can offer you the possibility of three camera live-streaming of your event by **Bars and Tone Productions**; professionals who have been doing our live-streaming of masses during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are independent contractors; the cost is \$600 cash or check payable to **Bars and Tone Productions**. You can contact them via: James Townsend ... jt@barsandtonemedia.com

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE

- ❖ The Wedding Facilitators, who lead your rehearsal, will normally be at your wedding and will show the photographers / videographers where they can go.
- ❖ Nothing is to be thrown on the floor inside Church.
- ❖ Outside: No rice, confetti, balloons (be mindful of anything that needs to be picked up or cleaned).
- ❖ PLEASE be on time.

FEES AND DONATIONS

The fee/donation for St. James Parishioners are as follows:

Donation / Offering to the Church-	\$500	
Fee for the Organist-	\$200	
Fee for the Cantor-	\$200	
Total	\$900	<i>Payable by check to St. James RC Church</i>

The fee/donation for non-parishioners are as follows:

Donation / Offering to the Church-	\$1,000	
Fee for the Organist-	\$200	
Fee for the Cantor-	\$200	
Total	\$1,400	<i>Payable by check to St. James RC Church</i>

OUTLINE OF NUPTIAL CEREMONY

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Liturgical Procession (Instrumental)
Gathering Hymn (Congregational Hymn)
Presider's Address (to the couple /congregation)
Collect / Opening Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament (can be read by a guest)
Psalm (will always be sung by our cantor)
New Testament (can be read by a guest)
Gospel Acclamation (will always be sung by our cantor)
Gospel (can only be read by a deacon or priest)

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Presider's Address
The Questions Before the Consent
The Exchange of Consent
The Reception of the Consent
Blessing and Giving of Rings
Blessing and Giving of the Arras (optional)
Blessing and Giving of the Veil (optional)

Hymn (optional)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD CONTINUED

Universal Prayer / Prayer of the Faithful: can be read by a guest
Our Father

THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

Final Prayer
Final Blessing
Recessional (Instrumental or Congregational Hymn)