

Dear Couple!

Congratulations on your engagement!

Marriage unites a man and a woman together for love and for life, for each other and for children, for God, for the Church, and indeed for the entire world. A happy and strong marriage, therefore, is our common goal, one through which each of you will help the other to attain the end of human existence: eternal happiness in communion with God. As husband and wife, and God willing, as mother and father, you embark on the great adventure of bearing witness to the mystery of God's love for us and of His desire to fill His Creation with life.

The following worklist and checklist have been prepared to help give you a quick overview of the major milestones of the entire process. A more detailed wedding planning guide, which covers all the other details, such as fees, music, decorations, the ceremony, and other do's and don'ts will be sent to you after a date has been set.

While I am at your disposal to assist you in preparing for this solemn occasion, yours is the principal responsibility of ensuring that all requirements are done in a timely manner. It is advisable to have all preparations and paperwork done at least **one month** before the wedding.

May God bless you in this holy endeavor!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dom Gabriel Rach". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

The Very Reverend Gabriel Rach, Can.Reg.
Pastor, St Patrick Parish

Weddings at St Patrick Parish

1. **Get engaged** (presumably this part is already done)
2. **Optional: Set a Placeholder Date**
 - Contact Fr Gabriel (domgabriel@canonry.org) to look for an available date on St Patrick Parish's calendar. Dates set at this stage are merely there to hold/protect the date.
 - **WARNING 1:** This date is not guaranteed and subject to revision depending on the rest of the process. Any reservations/deposits made by you for reception venues at this point are done at your own risk.
 - **WARNING 2:** If either party was previously married, a placeholder date cannot be set until after step 3.
3. **Pre-Nuptial Investigation (PNI)**
 - The PNI is the official start of the preparation process, and is normally conducted about one year before the proposed wedding date, but no later than six months before.
 - If at least one of you is a *current parishioner** at St Patrick, your preparation will be done at St Patrick. Email Fr Gabriel (address above) to schedule a PNI. You do not need the form that follows this list.
 - *While many people have years-long family and childhood ties to St Patrick, it is the nearest Catholic parish to which you *currently live* and/or attend Mass weekly that determines where you are a parishioner.
 - If neither of you is a current parishioner at St Patrick as defined above, your preparation begins at the Catholic parish in which one of you is a parishioner and/or attends weekly Mass most often. Please inform your parish of your intent to get married, taking with you the letter below (fill out your names). Your parish must determine where your preparation will take place and grant permission for the marriage to take place at St Patrick.
 - Once we receive back the signed from your parish, we will proceed accordingly.
4. Once the PNI is honestly and successfully completed, wherever it takes place, the date can now be set.
5. **Provide Recent Copies of Baptismal Certificates**
 - Contact the parish in which you were baptized and request, obtain, and deliver a newly-issued copy of your certificate to whoever is conducting your preparation.
 - If your preparation is being done at St Patrick AND you were baptized at St Patrick, this need not be done.
 - This certificate must be issued no earlier than 6 months before the wedding.
6. **Complete Pre-Cana Course & Provide Completion Certificate**
 - Currently St Patrick requires all our couples complete one of the courses offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre. They are offered throughout the year at various locations. We recommend you do this as soon as possible. Classes in our neighboring NY dioceses are also acceptable.
 - If you are doing your preparation at another parish, follow its guidelines.
7. **Wedding Ceremony or Wedding Mass?** This is typically discussed at the PNI. In absence of this conversation, a wedding ceremony choice presumed.
8. **Schedule a Rehearsal:**
 - Contact the St Patrick Parish Office a month before the wedding to do so.
9. **Obtain a New York State marriage license:** This can be done no earlier than 60 days before the wedding. It should be delivered to the parish office as soon as possible, but no later than the rehearsal. Without a New York State marriage license no wedding is possible.
10. **Attend the rehearsal.**
 - Bring the marriage license if it was not yet provided, as well as the appropriate fees.
 - If your preparation was done elsewhere, that parish should have sent your wedding folder to St Patrick in time for the rehearsal. It is your responsibility to check with them to make sure that it has happened.
11. **Show up. Get married!**

SAINT PATRICK PARISH
235 GLEN STREET
GLEN COVE, NEW YORK 11542

Dear Father,

I have been approached by _____ and _____, one or both of whom live(s) within your parish, regarding their desire to celebrate their marriage at St Patrick Church. Neither of them is known to us and/or currently lives within our parish.

I am writing first to ask whether you wish to grant permission to them to be married here.

Also, since the primary responsibility of marriage preparation naturally belongs to the parish in which they live, I want to clarify how we shall proceed. Our presumption is that the preparation will take place in your parish; if, however, for some serious reason, this is not possible, please let us know and we will take over the responsibility. Once I receive your response, I will be able to schedule the wedding at St Patrick Church.

If you have any questions, please email me at, at domgabriel@canonry.org.

Thank you for your assistance.



The Very Reverend Dom Gabriel Rach, Can. Reg.
Pastor

Dear Father,

Below you will find my intentions regarding the marriage of the above couple:
(check the appropriate option)

_____ The marriage preparation for my parishioner(s) will take place in my parish. Please accept this letter as confirmation that they have successfully completed the Pre-Nuptial Interview and have met all the requirements for marriage. Additionally, they have my permission to be married at St Patrick Parish. I will ensure the completed wedding folder is forwarded to St Patrick Parish in time for the wedding.

_____ I request that the marriage preparation of my parishioner(s) be conducted at St Patrick Parish. They additionally have my permission to be married at St Patrick Parish.

signature
Pastor _____

Email _____