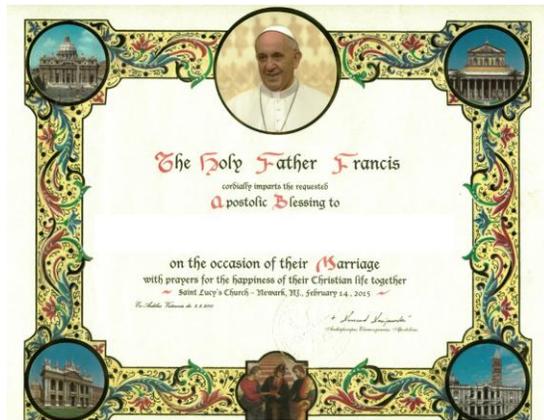




Only ceremonial vehicles (flowers cars, limos, etc...) will be permitted access to St. Lucy Plaza to disembark passengers at the main entrance to the church. All other processional vehicles must be parked in the parking area adjacent to the plaza. This policy is being placed into force to prevent additional damage to the memorial paving stones dedicated to parishioners.



You will celebrate your wedding at St. Lucy Church. If you would like to have the papal blessing on your marriage (i.e., a **beautiful parchment from Rome declaring the blessing of the Pope**), please fill out the form.

We will process the request without any charge; the service is included in your marriage offering.

The Sacrament of *Matrimony* at Saint Lucy's Church



**118 Seventh Ave.
Newark, NJ 07104
973-803-4200**

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Parish Family of St. Lucy rejoices with you in your desire to marry. It must be an exciting time in your lives. We recognize this reality and we know you probably have many questions, which you would like to ask us. The parish priests at St. Lucy hope you will find this booklet helpful as you prepare for the celebration of your Christian marriage. As a matter of fact, one of us will be working directly with you during this time of preparation, so as questions arise, we will be available to discuss them. Otherwise, this booklet will help you prepare for that most important day, your wedding day.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE?

Within the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament, a sign that communicates the presence of God. It is our belief that in a sacramental marriage we can experience the presence of God in the love of husband and wife. Their love becomes a sign to us of God's love for his people. A secular or civil ceremony may have the love of man and woman as its focus. A sacramental marriage, however, focuses on the **presence of God in the love of husband and wife**. So, within the Church, the marriage ceremony is primarily a service of worship of God during which the bride and groom exchange their vows. This focus on God in has many implications for the choices you will make in planning your wedding.

When a man and woman marry, their love reflects Jesus Christ's love for the people. Jesus' love is characterized by the sacrifice of his own life on the cross for the sake of all. In the same way, Christian marriage is distinguished by a total self-giving love.

Marriage is a life-long commitment of great importance. As such, it must not be entered into lightly or without sufficient reflection. Because of the tremendous importance the Church places on this sacred vocation, we ask all couples presenting themselves for this sacrament to journey through a process of preparation. All Catholic Churches in the State of New Jersey follow the "Common Policy for Marriage Preparation". This preparation means participating in formational and instructional sessions during the year preceding your marriage.

3. You may briefly step into the middle aisle for a picture during the vows.
4. Use of the Church is permitted after the ceremony for picture taking. However, necessary consideration and regard must be given to other parish events taking place.
5. Photographers are expected to show respect to the. Church building and its appointments, i.e., do NOT place equipment on tables, baptismal font, altar or altar steps.
6. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to telephone the parish.
7. The frequencies of certain videos at times interferes with our Church microphone system. When this occurs, all videos must be turned off.

"RECEIVING GUESTS"

The plaza of St. Lucy Church lends itself well to an informal receiving line. Assuming your wedding begins on schedule, you are welcome to use the plaza. If another wedding follows and you are late, you will have to forfeit that privilege. You must leave the Church property at least **thirty** minutes before the next ceremony or liturgy begins.

Under no circumstances should rice or bird seed be thrown on the Church steps or property. It is dangerous and unsightly! It is unfair and unsafe to parishioners who have difficulty walking. Consumption of alcoholic beverages either before or after the Wedding Ceremony is prohibited on Church property. A Champagne toast is more appropriate at the Wedding Reception.

As an option to something OUTSIDE of Church many people have chosen to use bubbles or bells as a way of creating a festive air, or having their guests applaud as they leave the Church. This is something that looks nice visually and is also in tune with the environment.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THESE MATTERS

FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another.

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those Churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion.

FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

We welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and unity of the human family.

PHOTOGRAPHER - VIDEOGRAPHER

The couple naturally make their own arrangements with the photographer and videographer of their choice. In the process of photographing your wedding, it is most important that the dignity of the Sacrament of Marriage be maintained. Please see that the following information is given to your photographer and videographer.

Dear Photographer,

St. Lucy Parish is happy to have this opportunity to work with you for this wedding. Naturally, we like every wedding to be a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. In order to facilitate this, we offer you some guidelines and hints that seem to work well in our Church. We also make certain requests of you so that we may maintain a spirit of reverence and respect for the celebration while you get the most beautiful photos of this celebration as possible.

GUIDELINES...

1. No one is allowed in the sanctuary or near the altar for the purpose of taking pictures.
2. The choir loft may be used for the purpose of taking pictures.

The Church is eager to assist you in preparing for your marriage. In doing so, the Church needs to secure a moral assurance that you know and understand the obligations of Sacramental Marriage and are willing and free to fulfill the vows which compromise the sacrament. Our preparation program here at St. Lucy, as detailed in this booklet, will help you to do this. We wish you every happiness in the days and years ahead, and sincerely hope that your marriage will be a sign of God's love to all those who encounter you.

THE WEDDING LITURGY

The most important factor in determining the nature of the liturgical celebration of marriage should not be the length of the service, as if trying to fit into a time schedule, but rather the faith and religious background of the couple. Your religious affiliation should be a consideration in your choice of wedding celebrations. There are two contexts in which the Sacrament of Marriage may be celebrated:

1. **THE NUPTIAL MASS:** This celebration includes the Rite of Marriage as well as the celebration and reception of the Eucharist. It should be the normal choice of practicing Catholics. It may not be appropriate if either party is not a practicing Catholic. *During certain seasons of the year, Advent, Lent and Easter, the Church gives precedence to the Sunday readings and prayers rather than the wedding Mass readings.* Please consult the priest who is working with you on your wedding plans as to the appropriate readings.
2. **THE WEDDING CEREMONY:** This celebration includes the prayers, readings and blessings of The Rite of Marriage without the celebration and reception of the Eucharist (the Mass). If either party is not a practicing Catholic, you may wish to choose this wedding ceremony as the appropriate symbol as you begin your marriage. Your wedding day will, in many ways, reflect to the world your tastes, desires and values. The central event of this day is God's action in your lives as you vow to love one another before the Church. Everything you do that day should be genuine and should speak of what your lives are about. The priest will be available to help you in planning the celebration of the Sacrament and to answer any questions you may have.

TIME OF MARRIAGE

Well in advance of making other arrangements for your wedding, the time of your marriage should be arranged with one of the parish priests. The wedding date and time should be secured with the Church before any other arrangements are made in order to avoid conflict.

These are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Time is allocated to provide dignity and reverence, and to avoid congestion and conflict with other weddings and parish celebrations.

When you call the rectory of St. Lucy presenting your will to get married in our parish, **the secretary will right your name in the book of celebrations. The date will be confirmed in the first meeting with one of the priests.**

On the **day of your wedding, your punctuality** is more than a matter of courtesy to your guests, attendants and the clergy you have asked to officiate. It is a necessity that will be required of you in consideration of others.

Generally, marriage celebrations are scheduled at the following times:

During the week from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm

Saturday: Morning 11:00 a.m.; Afternoon 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: Afternoon 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MARRIAGE

Marriage between two Catholics must be celebrated in the parish church of either the Bride or Groom.

Marriage between two Catholics may never be celebrated in any place other than a Church.

Marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic should be celebrated in the Church of the Catholic party.

However, for sufficient reason, at the request of the parish priest, the Archbishop may grant permission for a marriage to be celebrated elsewhere.

All procedures for Marriage Preparation, as outlined in this booklet, must still be followed.

CHURCH BEHAVIOR

Proper personal behavior is expected in Church. **If anyone in the bridal party has been drinking before the wedding or rehearsal, it will be at the discretion of the officiating priest whether the marriage can take place at all. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on Church property before or after the ceremony.** If either the bride or groom is under the influence of alcohol or drugs on the wedding day, according to the laws of the Church, the wedding may not proceed. Gum chewing, running, speaking in a loud voice and cheering are NOT considered proper behavior. It is your responsibility to convey this to your Bridal Party.

WEDDING REHEARSALS

The date and time of the wedding rehearsal will be arranged by the couple with the parish priest. It is important that the wedding party be on time for the scheduled rehearsal and that the bride and groom have already prepared a list of the order for the procession.

The lay people of the parish conduct the wedding rehearsals. It is necessary that the couple give the lay people all licenses, fees and other documents that have not already been presented.

CONVALIDATION OF A MARRIAGE

Any couple already united civilly or in a non-Catholic religious ceremony who would now like to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage must also follow the procedures in this booklet. It is necessary that a remarriage license be obtained from the Township of Newark.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

Please Read and Communicate to your Wedding Party

FOR CATHOLICS

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently.

DECORATIONS AND FLOWERS

Flower arrangements for your wedding are at your discretion. Please keep in mind the mobility of the bride and groom, bridal party and priest when making your selections. **Flowers may not be placed on or in front of the altar and decorations may not block access to the pews.** During certain church seasons, e.g., Christmas and Easter, flowers will already be present in the sanctuary. It is customary that the flowers remain in church for the weekend Masses.

Please Note! At no time are you allowed to alter the environment in or around the Church with flowers or any other decorations. You are not allowed to use tape on any Church furnishings for decorations, e.g., pews, chairs and tables.

The aisle runner for the church must be 100 feet in length.

WEDDING CANDLE

The Wedding Candle, sometimes referred to as the Unity Candle, is not part of the marriage rite. The Church's symbols of unity are the exchange of consent (vows) and the exchange of rings. The "unity candle" is allowed after a proper introduction.

FLOWERS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

After the procession, at the beginning of the ceremony or after communion, you may leave the altar area and go to the shrine of our Lady. The groom takes the flowers from where they have been prepared and hands them to the bride who places them before the Image of Mary. Both pause for a few moments in private prayer. This might be a time to sing a favorite Marian anthem.) May the prayers of the Mother of God accompany you throughout your life!

FLOWERS AND BLESSING FROM ST. GERARD

In our parish St. Gerard represent the patron of God's blessing and creator of life. It is a tradition to include him in the wedding celebrations, after communion, or before the final blessing. You may want a symbolic pilgrimage to St. Gerard chapel as part of your new life where you seek his protection.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Marriage preparation takes place during the year preceding the actual Church celebration. It is comprised of formational sessions and instructional sessions.

1. FORMATIONAL SESSIONS

The couple will meet several times with the priest who is witnessing your marriage. **It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange these meetings.** The purpose is to develop a helpful relationship between priest and couple that will lead to a sharing of feeling, attitudes, expectations and beliefs about the essential elements of marriage. Together will design the different aspects of the celebration: readings, form of the vows etc.

The Pre-Nuptial Investigation, the norm in the Archdiocese of Newark, will be filled out during these meetings. It is a short questionnaire to be completed between the priest and the couple. Its purpose is to give the Church moral certitude that there is no impediment to your entering the Sacrament of Marriage.

FOCCUS, or Marriage survey is a Marriage Preparation Inventory which is a tool to measure communication in several areas of married life. Every couple is strongly encouraged to complete this inventory as part of the formational sessions. The results of the inventory will then be discussed by the priest with the couple. In some instances, pre-marriage counseling may be required.

2. INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS

Instructional sessions for marriage are accomplished in one of two ways: **Pre-Cana**: Several sessions in which married couples themselves share their thoughts and experiences on topics related to marriage. The Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark publishes an annual Pre-Cana schedule which, will be given to you by the priest.

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage is a marriage preparation that offers engaged couples a complete understanding of God's glorious plan for marriage and human sexuality. It is intended to enhance a key component of marriage preparation: catechesis in the theology of marriage and the gift of human sexuality. Can be implemented as a one-day seminar, or over multiple evenings.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

As a means of final preparation for your wedding day and as a beginning of your lives together, you are encouraged to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our parish offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday at 5:30 pm or after the rehearsal of your wedding, or call to the rectory for an appointment.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

The following Church Documents are required:

1. **A recent certificate of Baptism.** This certificate can be obtained by writing to or calling your Church of Baptism. A "recent" Baptism certificate is one which you obtain from the Church of Baptism within six months of your marriage. (Photocopies are not acceptable.)
2. Certificate of instructional **session attendance:** Pre-Cana and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage.
3. Testimony of freedom to marry is obtained in one of two ways:
 - I. A Catholic party's recent Baptism certificate
 - II. **Affidavit from two people** who knew you well enough to attest to your freedom to marry.
4. If there has been a previous marriage, the following documents need to be presented:
 - * Decree of Nullity or Decree of Annulment, and the Decree of Divorce, or
 - * Death Certificate and Marriage Certificate.

CIVIL DOCUMENT REQUIRED

Marriage License: The Bride and Groom, accompanied by a witness who is at least 18 years old, apply for a Marriage License. It must be obtained from the town in which the bride resides. If she is not a New Jersey resident, then it is obtained from the town in which the groom resides. If neither the bride nor groom is a New Jersey resident, the license must be obtained from the town where the marriage will take place. Proof of residency may be required. You should apply for the license at least two weeks before the wedding but not earlier than six months. The license is **valid for 30 days** from the date of issuance. After the wedding, the parish will file the license with the Registrar of Vital Statistics. Please present the license at the wedding rehearsal.

FEES

The fee for a celebration of Marriage at St. Lucy Church is **\$ 700.00**. It includes paper work, church, service expenses and an organist. A **deposit of \$100.00** is required to book a date. This deposit is due when the wedding is scheduled with the parish priest and is non-refundable. The amounts of all fees are reviewed annually by the Parish Finance Council.

TOTAL BALANCE SHOULD BE PAID A MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING

MUSIC

The Catholic Church in the document, "Music in Catholic Worship" states: "Great care should be taken, especially in marriage, that all the people are involved at the important moments of the celebration, that the same general principles of planning worship and judging music are employed as at other liturgies, and above all, that the liturgy is a prayer for all present, not a theatrical production."

There is a great deal of beautiful music available which speaks of God in our lives, of the holiness, joy and beauty of Christian marriage; of the special Christian significance of your wedding day. Keep in mind that you are participating in a Sacrament of the Church. Your music should be appropriate to that Sacrament.

It is the responsibility of the couple to meet with the Organist. The list of the organists serving at St. Lucy is available from the parish secretary.

VISITING PRIESTS

Any couple being married at St. Lucy who would like to ask a priest to officiate at their marriage, other than one of the parish priests, are free to do so. Visiting priests are most welcome. It is the responsibility of the couple and the officiating priest to make arrangements for the formational and instructional sessions in accordance with the common policy of the Roman Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey. Please ask the priest officiating at your wedding to send a letter to the pastor of St. Lucy regarding:

- His commitment to the date and time of your wedding
- His commitment to the date and time of the rehearsal
- His intention to request delegation
- His commitment to complete the necessary paper work