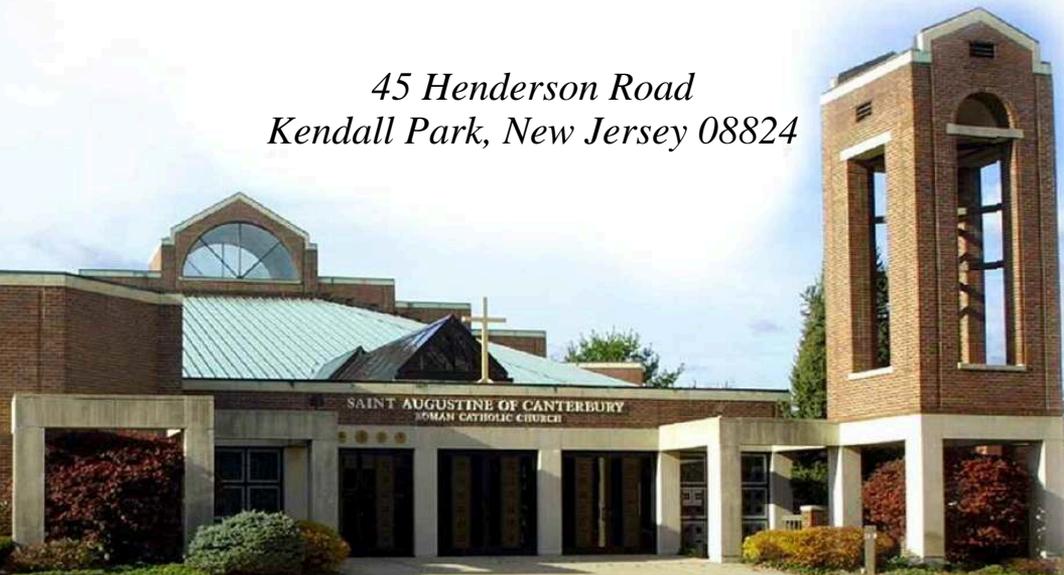


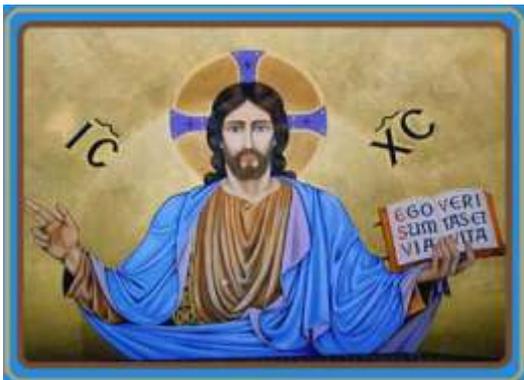


*Saint Augustine of Canterbury
Roman Catholic Church*

Marriage Guidelines

*45 Henderson Road
Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824*





ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

45 HENDERSON ROAD
KENDALL PARK, NEW JERSEY 08824-1506
(732) 297-3000

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY

CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend our congratulations to you on your decision to marry, not only out of friendship but out of the belief that what you plan is SACRED and CHRISTIAN:

SACRED because every wedding is a celebration of love of a man and a woman dedicated, not only to each other, but also to a life of service to God and to all people. This dedicated love springs from the very core of personhood which, in and of itself, is sacred.

CHRISTIAN because Jesus Christ pledged to be with us always, to help us become perfected persons and perfected lovers. And those who believe in marriage make a similar honor-bound pledge to each other.

WHY MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH?

The first thing you should consider is whether you see your getting married in this same light. In other words, does your coming to Church to be married mean that you understand and believe that your getting married has a sacred and a Christian character and that preparation for your wedding must be a deepening of that belief?

This brochure is meant to chart the way you must walk together for your wedding in our Church.

PREMARITAL PREPARATION

Preparing for your wedding is no small matter! Preparing for your marriage, however, is vitally important. To deepen your understanding of the various aspects of married life, the following are available:

- a) *Our parish policy requires that at least **one year** of preparation time must be allowed before a wedding can take place in the Church. (New Jersey common policy).*
- b) **PRE-CANA:** *Conferences given in our parish or another area. A booklet containing a schedule of Pre-Cana conferences is available at the Parish Center.*

OR

*The **ENGAGED ENCOUNTER:** a weekend experience with emphasis on communication. Dates can be obtained by calling the Parish Center.*



ARRANGEMENTS

At least one of the parties must be a registered parishioner or member of a family registered at our parish to be married in our Church.

As soon as a proposed date is chosen, the Pastor will be glad to reserve the date for the wedding. A priest or deacon of the parish will be assigned to you by the Pastor.

If you desire to have a clergy or close friend witness the wedding, permission must be obtained from the Pastor. It is understood that the visiting Deacon/Priest will do all the necessary paperwork, and come for the rehearsal. All Church guidelines established by St. Augustine's must be followed.

a) NUPTIAL MASS

*Because of our belief in the Eucharist as the Real Presence of Christ and the unity it symbolizes, a Nuptial Mass should only be celebrated between two practicing Catholics who regularly attend Mass and **are not living together.***

b) WEDDING CEREMONY

The Wedding Ceremony takes place in the context of a Liturgy of the Word with the Rite of Marriage celebrated after the Proclamation of the Gospel.

*A Nuptial Mass or Ceremony is permitted until **2:30 p.m.** on Saturdays. On Sundays only a **Wedding Ceremony** is permitted at 3:00 p.m. Because of the penitential season of Lent, Wedding Ceremonies are permitted only on a Sunday at 3:00 p.m. and because of this **penitential season** decorations for the wedding will be **limited.***



MUSIC

*The Director of Music and Organist is the person in charge of the music for Parish weddings. He is available by appointment to discuss the choice of music, but all music selected must have his approval. It is YOUR responsibility to contact him and plan the music for your wedding. You may contact him at the Parish Office (732)297-3000. Once you have contacted him, you will then receive a packet of information and he will set up your private consultation time. As a courtesy to the parish musicians, we ask that you contact the Director of Music **NO LATER THAN 3 months** prior to your wedding.*

MR. WILLIAMBERG, Director of Music – 732-297-3000

Only the parish organist may be engaged for weddings in our Church. If a vocal and/or instrumental soloist is desired, the Director of Music will contract them for your wedding.

*Arrangements for non-parish musicians can be made only at the discretion of the Director of Music. Additionally, it is understood that if a visiting organist/cantor is approved by the Director of Music, the parish organist/cantor **will still receive the assigned stipend** as professional courtesy (known as a bench fee).*

LICENSE

*Every state has its own laws concerning marriage. A witness, twenty-one years or older, who knows both parties is also required to be present for the application of the license. The local registrar within the bride's residence is where application for the license is made. If both parties are from out of state, then the application takes place in the township where the marriage is to be performed. A license is issued for a period of thirty days and must be left at the Parish Center **three days prior to the wedding.***

FEES

*The following are the general charges for the use of our facilities and services. **All fees should be given to the Parish Secretary** when you bring in your marriage license at least **THREE DAYS** prior to the wedding:*

(Place in separate envelopes using cash only).

<i>*Church</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>\$225.00</i>
<i>Soloist</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>
<i>Pew Torches</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>

\$150.00 for parishioners contributing to the parish. **\$500.00 for parishioners not contributing to the parish (not using envelopes). The Church donation is specifically for the parish and a clergy donation is at your discretion.*

ARRIVAL

*The bride and bridesmaids must arrive at the Church **fifteen minutes before the wedding** and gather in the Chapel. The groom, best man and ushers should arrive a half-hour before the wedding.*

FLOWERS

*You may choose your own florist. If flowers are to be used on the pews, they must be attached **WITHOUT** the use of tape or tacks. No artificial flowers are permitted. Altar flowers from the wedding are to be left after the wedding. These may be given in thanksgiving for your wedding or in memory of loved ones.*



UNITYCANDLE

If you wish to have a Unity Candle it will be provided by the Church. The priest will instruct the bride and groom as to the procedure for the Unity Candle Ritual. The Unity Candle is not an official part of the Roman Rite – the exchange of vows and rings are the essence of the Sacrament.

SEASON OF LENT

The Church now permits marriages to take place during the Season of Lent. Since this is a penitential season, it is the policy of the parish to permit only ceremonies which will take place on Sundays during Lent. Also, no flowers will be permitted to reflect the penitential season of the Church. Organ music will be kept to a minimal.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Please do not plan any picture taking in front of the Blessed Sacrament before the wedding. Flash pictures may be taken in the Church.

Guests should be reminded that they are not to leave their seats during the Wedding.

Video equipment may be set up near the Baptismal area. No special lighting is permitted. Please check with the priest/deacon for specifics.

*Those who wish a record of the wedding itself or care to have pictures taken close to the Altar may do so immediately **AFTER** the wedding for a brief time. **Only a picture of the Bride and Groom is permitted in front of the Altar.** Family pictures may be taken in the Chapel, Gathering Area or on the grounds of the parish.*

PARKING

There is ample parking for guests on either side of the Church. However, the Processional Drive is for the Bridal Party only.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Unlike the wedding reception, the Church wedding is a sacred, solemn occasion. Once the guests leave the Church Gathering Area and enter the Church proper, silence is to be observed.

REHEARSALS

*A specific rehearsal time will be assigned by the priest or deacon well in advance of your wedding day. Because of other rehearsals or Church services which may be scheduled that same evening, please stress to all members of your wedding party the importance of arriving on time. **THE REHEARSAL WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY!** The Parish Wedding Coordinator may conduct the rehearsal.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

No confessions will be heard after the rehearsal. All in the bridal party are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation the week prior to the wedding. Please be mindful, to be able to receive Holy Communion, one must be a Catholic in good standing and if one has missed Mass, which is a serious sin, one must first be reconciled through the Sacrament before receiving Holy Communion. Confessions are heard in the Chapel on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



RICE POLICY, CONFETTI, BALLOONS, ROSE PETALS

It is a long standing policy here at St. Augustine's that the throwing of rice, confetti, bird seed, or the release of balloons is prohibited.

There are thousands of people throughout the world who, if they are lucky, subsist on a rice diet. There are, additionally, countless thousands who are starving and who would consider themselves blessed if they just had a bowl of rice to eat. Mindful of this, we as a Church, cannot countenance food being thrown on the walkway. In addition, it creates a hazardous condition, especially for the elderly and handicapped who come to Mass following the weddings and have to walk over a rice covered sidewalk.

Confetti is equally unacceptable because it simply creates a mess that someone has to clean up.

Balloons are unacceptable because when accidentally released they float to the peak of the building and become trapped. More importantly, environmentalists have expressed concern over balloons polluting waterways and killing fish. Therefore, in respect of all God's creatures, we do not permit the use of balloons.

From recent experiences the throwing of rose petals is also prohibited because of the mess left behind and the stains left from the dye.



**CHRISTIAN MORALITY
COHABITATION – LIVING TOGETHER
PARISH GUIDELINES**

The Sacrament of Marriage joins the husband and wife into an intimate bond before Almighty God. The Catholic Church has the Word of God as its foundation as Revealed Truths by God. Also, the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit throughout the centuries, teaches without error in matters of faith and morals.

The Catholic Church and the parish of St. Augustine affirms the holy tradition of couples not living together until joined by God in the Sacrament of Marriage.

If a couple should choose to live together, only a SIMPLE CEREMONY will be permitted (no wedding candle or presentation of flowers to Mary will be permitted). Basically, this parish will treat the ceremony as a convalidation.

This parish affirms the teachings of Sacred Scripture and that of the Church. It saddens me because of attitudes in today's society, that I must unfortunately place this in our booklet.



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