

SAINT PHILIP NERI CHURCH

LAFAYETTE HILL, PA

Guidelines for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Guest Couples



“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

Gospel of St. John 15:12

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH

437 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA 19444
Phone: 610-834-1975

www.saintphilipnerichurch.com

A Marriage Blessing Prayer

*We thank you, O God, for the Love You have
implanted in our hearts.*

*May it always inspire us to be kind in our words,
considerate of feeling, and concerned for each other's
needs and wishes.*

*Help us to be understanding and forgiving of human
weaknesses and failings. Increase our faith and trust
in You and may Your Prudence guide our life and
love.*

*Bless our Marriage O God, with Peace and Happiness,
and make our love fruitful for Your glory and our Joy
both here and in eternity.*

Amen.



Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations to you both on your engagement! Please read very carefully the information below. If you have other questions, please feel free to contact us any time at 610-834-1975. We are most happy to assist you as you take this blessed journey towards Holy Matrimony.

To Secure a Date for Your Wedding:

Weddings are usually scheduled on Friday evenings and on Saturdays from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Other days and times may be scheduled for *exceptional reasons*. The demand for open dates is such that we must have a viable paper trail for each wedding scheduled. You should contact the parish at least one year prior to your proposed wedding date, no less than six months prior to your proposed date. All couples desiring to be married at Saint Philip Neri must make the following arrangements for marriage preparation in order to secure a date.

Guest Couples: Please follow the procedure below to request your wedding date:

- a) Submit a written request (via mail or email) listing the following: *date and time you would like; names of the prospective bride and groom; address; email; and daytime and evening telephone numbers.*
- b) Ask that the priest (if he is not from St. Philip Neri), celebrating your wedding, write us a letter in which he states his willingness both to prepare you and officiate at your wedding. This is best done through your local parish. Other possibilities might include relatives or friends of your family who are priests.
- c) Once the above information is completed we will send a letter of acknowledgement.

Your date will be **held** when we have received the following:

1. Your refundable payment (see below for details)
2. Your signed request form (sent with the wedding guidelines)
3. A letter of permission from your local parish pastor stating that you are free to have your wedding at Saint Philip Neri. ***This permission is required by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for weddings not held in the local parish of the bride or groom.***
4. A letter from the priest (if he is not from St. Philip Neri) who has agreed to prepare for, and preside at your rehearsal and wedding. This priest may likely be your pastor, if so, then, he should mention that in his letter of permission.
5. A letter from the Chancery of the (Arch) Diocese from which the priest serves stating that he has the faculties of the (Arch) Diocese. If the priest serves within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, no letter is necessary. *In the case of a distant diocese, the "PNI" must be completed in that diocese and mailed directly from the Chancery of that diocese to the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia* (It should not be mailed to Saint Philip Neri). The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will forward the completed information to Saint Philip Neri.

Marriage Preparation: A complete marriage preparation includes the following:

1. An Appropriate number of Meetings with a priest is necessary in order to prepare you for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

2. Pre-Nuptial Investigation To determine that the couple is free to marry in the Catholic Church. This includes separate questionnaires for the Bride and two witnesses on her behalf, and for the Groom and two witnesses on his behalf. The priest preparing you for marriage should assist you in completing this.

3. Baptismal Certificates for the Bride and Groom must be obtained (except for a non-Christian Bride or Groom), listing any notations. These copies must be obtained and dated not more than six months prior to the date of your wedding.

4. Marriage Preparation (Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter courses) should be attended as soon as possible, since these programs fill up quickly. You will find a variety of scheduling options for fulfilling this requirement. **Saint Philip Neri offers a one-day Marriage Preparation course in both the Fall and the Spring.** If you and your fiancé are interested in participating in Saint Philip Neri Marriage Preparation, please contact the Church Office at 610-834-1975 for a registration form. For more information regarding Saint Philip Neri's Marriage Preparation Day, please follow the link below:

http://www.saintphilipnerichurch.com/MarriagePrepGuidelineBook_FINAL.pdf

You could also contact the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office of Life, Family, and the Laity for other options. They can be contacted at 215-587-0500. Pre-Cana/Engaged Encounter courses from any diocese or Catholic parish are accepted here.

5. A Civil Marriage License from the State of Pennsylvania must be procured within sixty Days of your wedding date. Bring this to your last wedding appointment before the rehearsal.

Liturgy

Rite of Marriage Within Mass

The Rite of Marriage within Mass (Wedding Mass) is typically celebrated when two Catholics marry. It includes the Rite of Marriage (Consent, Exchange of Rings, Nuptial Blessing) as well as the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Communion).

For the Wedding Mass, readings from Sacred Scripture must be selected. These readings include the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, the Second Reading, and the Gospel. You must choose from the readings as specified in the Rite of Marriage. The readings can be obtained through a liturgy preparation book provided by the parish or through accessing the link below:

<http://foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/planning-a-catholic-wedding/readings/>

A lector(s) (one who reads either the First or Second Reading) must be chosen. The lector(s) can be chosen from among your family or friends. Up to (2) lectors can be chosen.

You also can invite a few members among your family and friends to bring up the gifts (the bread and wine to be consecrated at Mass) during the Offertory Procession.

Altar servers will be provided by the parish. If, however, you provide your own altar servers, you must notify us at least two weeks before the wedding. It is customary that the couple compensate the servers for their service at the altar. The altar server fee at Saint Philip's is \$20 (\$10 for each server).

Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass

The Rite of Marriage outside of Mass includes only the Readings (Liturgy of the Word) and the Rite of Marriage (Consent, Exchange of Rings, Nuptial Blessing). For the Rite of Marriage outside of Mass, Readings from Sacred Scripture must be selected. These Readings include the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm, the Second Reading, and the Gospel. You must choose from the Readings as specified in the Rite of Marriage. *See above for information regarding the Readings and lectors.*

Marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic

Marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic are permitted once the proper dispensations are obtained (this is done through the priest preparing you for marriage).

Presentation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

A beautiful custom which could take place during the wedding is the Presentation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At that time, the Bride and Groom approach the statue of Mary, place flowers beneath her statue, and ask for Mary's assistance as they begin their journey together in marriage. This custom occurs toward the conclusion of the wedding.

(See "Appendix" for a Liturgy Preparation Sheet for both the Rite of Marriage within Mass and the Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass)

Rehearsal:

Rehearsals are to be scheduled prior to your wedding. The date and time can be confirmed when your wedding date has been acknowledged. All weddings at Saint Philip Neri will be celebrated according to the approved rites and liturgies of the Roman Catholic Church, without exception. The priest celebrating your wedding is encouraged to be present at your rehearsal.

Sacred Music:

The Sacrament of Matrimony is enhanced by the use of sacred music. Our Music Director, Jean Martin (jeanm1@comcast.net), is available to help you prepare the sacred music for your wedding. After placing your wedding date on the parish calendar, contact Jean to confirm this date and to set up an appointment to discuss details. All Parish Cantors will be recommended at that time. Should you desire additional instrumentalists, those contacts will also be made through our Music Director. We recommend you contact her no sooner than 6 months before your wedding. Fees to her and other musicians and singers are agreed upon and paid for by the couple being married. You may contract other musicians or singers; however, all music must first be approved by Jean Martin. Music should be appropriate for religious use. (see "Appendix" for a listing of hymns suitable for the Rite of Marriage).

Photography & Videography:

Photos and videos are welcome during and after the wedding. Should you require pictures after the celebration, kindly keep within the time frame allotted to your wedding due to the church's schedule.

Offering to Saint Philip Neri:

For guest couples, an offering of \$500 is requested. This offering does not include payments to musicians, florists, printers or any donation you would like to give to the priest or deacon officiating at your wedding. These are to be arranged separately.

Other Considerations:

Confession is strongly encouraged for Catholic parties as an appropriate part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. You should make arrangements for this prior to the wedding or at the evening of the rehearsal.

Flowers are welcome and we greatly appreciate that they remain in the sanctuary for the Sunday celebration of Masses.

Decorations may be used on the pews, but not with adhesives or tacking that will damage the wood.

Floor Runners, while permitted, are not encouraged as they are a safety hazard for the bridal party and guests. If used, floor runners are provided by the florist.

Throwing **rice, confetti, or birdseed**, is not permitted on church grounds. This is a matter of safety as well as physical maintenance.

Absolutely **NO beer or other alcoholic beverages** are permitted on the church grounds.

It is extremely important that both the rehearsal and the wedding itself **start on time**. Due consideration must be made for other weddings and/or parish events scheduled on the same day.

Wedding Request Form

I, _____ and _____ would like to have our wedding at Saint Philip Neri Church on ____/____/____ at _____ time.

We understand that within 30 days of this request, we must forward to Saint Philip Neri the following:

- Our complete contact information.**
(Addresses, day and evening telephone numbers, e-mail addresses for you and your fiancée.)
- A letter from the priest officiating at our wedding (if a visiting priest is presiding)**
(Acknowledging his willingness to assist us with our marriage preparation and officiate at our wedding as well as conduct the rehearsal.)
- Our offering of \$500 made payable to Saint Philip Neri Church.**
- Our rehearsal will be on _____ at _____, Conducted by _____.**

By signing and submitting this form, we acknowledge that we have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the wedding guidelines and checklist that were provided.

(Please print full name) GROOM

(Signature)

(Please print full name) BRIDE

(Signature)

(Date)

Please return this form to:

Saint Philip Neri Church
437 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania 19444
610-834-1975

OTHER ITEMS THAT WILL BE NEEDED PRIOR TO THE WEDDING ARE:

- Your baptismal certificates**
(These should not be dated more than six months prior to your wedding date and can be given to the priest preparing you for marriage.)
- Marriage Preparation/Pre-Cana certificate**
- The Pre –Nuptial Investigation (PNI) and four (4) witness forms.**
(Completed with the assistance of the priest officiating at your wedding.)

SIX (6) MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING

- Contact Jean Martin to arrange the music for the day of the wedding. (Please note that if you do not choose to use our music ministry team, the musician you hire must contact Jean Martin to discuss the music selection).

TWO (2) MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING

- Procure the Civil Marriage License from any county in the state of Pennsylvania.

ONE (1) MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING, PLEASE MAIL OR DROP OFF:

- The Pre-Nuptial Investigation, witness forms, and baptismal certificates
- The Civil Marriage License
- Marriage Preparation/Pre-Cana certificate

Appendix
Sacred Music for Rite of Marriage

Prelude (optional solos)

A Gaelic Blessing	Sexton
Be Thou With Me	Bach
Bridal Prayer	Copeland
By My Side	Porter
Laudate Dominum	Mozart
Love is the Sunlight	Haas
With This Ring	Copeland

Entrance Processionals

Air	Handel
Air on the G String	Bach
Air from "Water Music"	Handel
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Hymn to Saint Anthony	Haydn
Hymne	Vangelis
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
LaGrace	Telemann
Ode to Joy	Beethoven
Trumpet Voluntary	Purcell

Suggested Psalms

Psalm 34	Taste & See
Psalm 89	Throughout All Time - Haas
Psalm 103	The Lord is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 118	This is the Day the Lord Has Made
Psalm 128	May the Lord Bless Us
Psalm 128	Blest Are Those Who Love You – Haugen

Hymn During the Preparation of the Gifts

God, Who Created Hearts to Love	
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	Hyfrydol
I Have Loved You	
Lord of All Hopefulness	Slane
Morning Has Broken	Bunessan
Prayer of St. Francis	
Servant Song	
The Gift of Love	Hopson
The Greatest Gift	Marchionda
The Irish Blessing	Stookey
The Servant Song	Gilliard
Ubi Caritas	
When Love is Found	Wren

Communion Hymns

Behold the Lamb
Blest Are They
Bread of Life
Gift of Finest Wheat
I Am the Bread of Life
One Bread, One Body
Panis Angelicus
Taste & See
The Supper of the Lord
Where Charity and Love Prevail

Franck

Marian Hymns

Ave Maria
Ave Maria
Ave Maria

Bach-Gounod
Caccini
Schubert

Recessionals

Ode to Joy
Psalm XVIII
Rigaudon
Rondeau
Trumpet Tune
Trumpet Voluntary
Te Deum Fanfare

Beethoven
Marcello
Campra
Mouret
Purcell
Clarke
Charpentier

Jean Martin, Music Director
St. Philip Neri Church
Lafayette Hill, PA
Jeanm1@comcast.net
215/704-0508

Appendix

The Order of the Wedding Liturgy – Rite of Marriage Within Mass

Gathering and Introductory Rites

Prelude Music

Organ/Vocal _____

Seating of Grandmothers/Mothers _____

Procession of Bridesmaids _____

Procession of Bride _____

Gloria

Collect

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading _____ Reader _____

Psalm _____ Cantor _____

Second Reading _____ Reader _____

Gospel Verse _____ Cantor _____

Gospel _____ Celebrant

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Wedding Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

General Intercessions

Reader_____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

Presented by_____

Preparation Hymn

#_____

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Acclamations, Amen

Communion Rite

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Lamb of God

Communion

#_____

Prayer After Communion

Concluding Rite

Solemn Blessing

Dismissal

Presentation to Mary

Recessional

The Order of the Wedding Liturgy – Rite of Marriage Outside Mass

Prelude Music

Organ _____

Vocal _____

Processional Music

Maids _____

Bride _____

Introductory Rites

Greeting

Collect

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Old Testament Reading _____

Responsorial Psalm

Sung _____

Second Reading

New Testament Reading _____

Gospel Acclamation

Sung Alleluia _____

Gospel _____

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Wedding Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Hymn of Praise _____

General Intercessions

Nuptial Blessing

Concluding Rite

Lord's Prayer

Solemn Blessing

Presentation to Mary _____

Recessional _____

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

