



The Church of St. James
Policy for the Sacrament of Matrimony

We are pleased that you will be celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. James Church. This checklist will assist you in preparation for that special celebration. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at (908)766-0888, ext. 3.

☐ Scheduling a Date

No one may assume that a wedding will take place at St. James without the Pastor's permission; therefore, no arrangements with a hall or restaurant should be made until the date is registered per the Pastor's approval. Normally, planning should begin at least one year prior to the desired date of the wedding. Weddings are held in the Chapel. Saturday weddings may be scheduled at 11:00 a. m. or 3:00 p. m.

☐ Parish Participation

The Church understands that the Sacrament of Matrimony is a community event. Your vocation to marriage, then, extends beyond the boundaries of your immediate family to the parish-at-large. It is, therefore, essential that you be active participants in the parish community. Weekly Mass attendance (for Catholics) is considered the minimal prerequisite to the celebration of matrimony in our Church, and we welcome your participation in other parish activities and ministries as well. We would be most grateful to have a picture of you and your spouse to display after the wedding, so that your parish family can share in your joy. A hard copy or electronic (emailed) copies are both acceptable. (stjamesbr@optonline.net)

☐ Preparation Meetings

You will be asked to meet at least three times with the priest or deacon who will officiate. It is his responsibility to get to know you, to know that you are prepared for the Sacrament of Matrimony, to know that you have fulfilled the necessary canonical requirements for matrimony, and to help prepare you for the ceremony itself. This personal contact and interaction will help to make your wedding day even more special for both of you.

☐ Documentation

If you are Catholic, you will be asked to submit an updated Baptismal Certificate that has been issued from your church of Baptism within the last six months. This is done by contacting the parish office where you were baptized. The date of your Confirmation should be noted on the back of the updated baptismal certificate.

☐ For the Photographer

To maintain the reverence of the Sacrament of Matrimony, flash pictures and video lamps will not be allowed during the ceremony. Flash-less photographs and videos without lamps are permitted. In addition, all photographers are asked to limit themselves to the area behind the front pews when taking pictures or videos during the wedding. Posed pictures may be taken after the ceremony, if time allows.

☐ For the Florist

Flower deliveries should be made at times prearranged with the parish office. The florist is asked not to tape ribbons or floral pieces to the pews. Floral pieces should be attached with ribbon or elastic bands. Any floral pieces brought in may be left in the Chapel after the celebration. If you are bringing in items that you need returned, please ask a friend to gather them immediately after the wedding.

Please note that during the weeks following Christmas and Easter the chapel will be decorated with great care by our flower committee. It is expected that you will leave those flowers as they are for your wedding. Please contact the parish office with questions about specific weekends, which may occur during these seasons.

☐ For the Guests

Please inform your guests that the throwing of rice, birdseed, flower petals, or other objects is strictly prohibited. Couples will assume all additional costs associated with the removal of such debris, as well as liability for injuries that it may cause.

☐ Offering

The Church offering is \$500. This does not include the musician fees. Please contact Joyce Russell as soon as possible at (908) 766-7289 for further information concerning her fees and the selection of music for your wedding. Should you choose to bring in your own musician, there is a bench fee of \$175 made payable to Joyce Russell.

I offer my sincerest congratulations on your engagement. Please be assured of my prayers as you prepare for this lifelong commitment.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Sylvester J. Cronin
Pastor