

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL- ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Guidelines for the Sacrament of Matrimony GUEST COUPLES



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.

Dear Engaged Couple,
The Pastoral Staff here at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Union, New Jersey, congratulate both of you on your engagement, and offer to you our prayers and best wishes.

Please read very carefully the information below. If you have other questions, feel free to contact the parish office at your convenience. *(All initial inquiries are made through the Secretary at the parish office)* We are most happy to assist you on your journey towards holy matrimony.

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, 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. Due to our own staffing limitations, we regret that we **cannot** provide priests for marriage preparation, rehearsals, nor the celebration of the wedding ceremony for members of other parishes.
- 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 Our Lady of Guadalupe. ***This permission is required by the Archdiocese of Newark for weddings not held in the local parish of the bride or groom.***
4. A letter from the priest 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 practices within the Archdiocese of Newark, no letter is necessary.

6. *In the case of a distant (arch)diocese, all of the paperwork including the "PNI" must be completed in that diocese and mailed directly from the Chancery of that (arch)diocese to the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Newark (It should not be mailed to St. Michael Church. The Archdiocese of Newark will forward the completed information to St. Michael Church. Once this information has been received, official delegation will be granted to the priest officiating.*

Marriage Preparation: A complete marriage preparation includes the following:

1. An Appropriate number of Meetings with a priest 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. Talk to the priest about any previous marriages (court, traditional, or sacramental marriages) that you or your fiancée was involved with before fixing any dates for your wedding. This is very important especially if any previous marriage involves annulment.

Note:

A. If any dispensations or permissions are required to be gotten from the Archdiocese through the Metropolitan Tribunal, the cost is \$10.00 for processing fee.

B. If Nullity is required (nullifying a previous marriage as defective in its form), the cost is #75.00 payable to the Archdiocese

C. If an Annulment is to be pursued (dissolving a previous marriage as invalid right from its inception), the cost is \$500.00. \$100.00 initial processing fee and \$400.00 at completion. In the case of an annulment filing, **please do not fix a date for your wedding until the outcome of the Annulment filing is declared.**

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. Complete a Marriage Preparation Inventory (FOCCUS). FOCCUS is a resource designed to assess each of your habits, expectations, and values re-

lated to marriage. A link will be provided for you to access the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory.)

5. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter Classes: Attend a Pre-Cana or engaged encounter Seminar. Call the Archdiocese of Newark, Family Life department (973-497-4328) or log onto www.rcan.org/famlife/precana.htm for possible locations within the Archdiocese.

6. Attend "God's Plan For a Joy Filled Marriage Seminar. To register, visit www.joyfilledmarriagenj.org or call Jill Cherrey at the Archdiocesan office 973-497-4325

7. Obtain a Marriage License from your city of residence (You need to apply for this at least two months before the date of wedding. You need to bring this License and give it to the priest who will witness your wedding no later than your rehearsal date.

8. Rehearsal: Rehearsals are usually scheduled for the evening prior to your wedding. The date and time can be confirmed when your wedding date has been acknowledged. Other arrangements may be made with the priest performing your Marriage Rite. All weddings at St. Michael Church will be celebrated according to the approved rites and liturgies of the Roman Catholic Church, without exception.

Music:

Our music director is Peter Petrecca. He can be reached at 908-418-0077. We recommend you contact him as soon as your wedding date has been secured. Fees to him 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 Mr. Peter Petrecca. Music should be appropriate for liturgical/religious use.

Liturgy Preparation

The priest preparing you for marriage will assist you in preparing the Wedding Liturgy. You will need to prayerfully select the readings to be used in your wedding liturgy. These readings can be found at *For Your Marriage:* <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/planning-a-catholic-wedding/readings/> . The First Reading is from the Old Testament and the Second Reading is from the New Testament. The priest preparing you for marriage may want to choose the Gospel Reading. After the readings have been selected, you will need to determine who will do the first and second reading. The priest can assist you with this matter.

Photography & Videography:

Photos and videos are welcome during and after the service. Flash photography is permitted as appropriate. It is assumed that the photographers will not interfere with the celebration of the Liturgy.

Offering to St. Michael Church:

The offering for Parishioners getting married at St. Michael Church is \$450. This **does not** include payments to musicians or any donation you would like to give to the priest or deacon officiating at your wedding. Those are to be arranged separately.

Other Considerations:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is required 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 are greatly appreciated should you decide that they remain in the sanctuary for the Sunday celebration of Masses. Should your florist have any questions, please have him/her contact our office.

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.

Should you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

With prayerful best wishes,

St. Michael the Archangel Church
1212 Kelly Street
Union, N.J. 07083