

SAINT PHILIP'S CHURCH
622 Putnam Pike
Greenville, RI 02828
(401) 949-1500

HOW TO BE MARRIED AT SAINT PHILIP'S

The occasion of your marriage is a very special time for you, your families and friends. Because it is the giving and receiving of a sacrament, it is an act of worship and will be celebrated in church before God and those closest to you. We hope these guidelines make planning your wedding easier.

- 1) **SET THE DATE:** Speak to one of the priests as soon as possible:
 - A) to reserve the date and the hour, including rehearsal time
 - B) to schedule your *Marriage Preparation* sessions. The *Marriage Preparation* sessions are a time for you to listen to other married couples and to reflect, pray and discuss the commitment which you are about to make. The most important things said on them are what you say to each other. The three types of sessions are:
 - a) A "Two-Sunday-Afternoon" (1:30-5:30) session offered here in St. Philip's Parish Center; either two Sundays in March or two Sundays in October.
 - b) The *ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND* – Call the Marriage Preparation Office at 278-4576 or check their website at www.diocesofprovidence.org or CEE's national website at www.engagedencounter.org.
 - c) Any of the other sessions listed in the booklet given to you by the priest. Please choose one right away, send in the registration card, and go with an open mind. If you have any questions, call the Office of Marriage and Family Life. The number is listed on the booklet.

N.B. Also required is for you to attend a Sexuality Seminar. This talk focuses on the teaching of the Catholic Church with regard to the gift of human sexuality. Your Marriage Preparation sessions *may* include this talk. If not, you need to attend a separate talk.

- 2) **ON THE PRACTICAL SIDE:** a checklist to help remind you of some things that you will eventually need:
 - A) *Baptismal Certificate* (it must be a *newly issued certificate* from the Church of your baptism. You do not need to get a certificate if your baptism took place here at St. Philip's). If one of you has never been baptized, then a *birth certificate* is fine.
 - B) *First Communion and Confirmation certificates* issued from the church where you received these sacraments:
 - C) Marriage Preparation and Sexuality Seminar certificates.
 - D) Marriage license. (A blood test is no longer required).

You may invite another priest to perform your ceremony, but the rule is that he will also do the paperwork and rehearsal. Ask him to please call a priest at St. Philip rectory at some point before the wedding.

- 3) **FEES FOR THE CHURCH:** The Church offering is \$300. *This money does not go to the priest* but to the parish. A check made out to “St. Philip’s Church” should be given at the rehearsal. Customarily, the best man tips the altar servers.
- 4) **MUSIC:** We clearly prefer that you use our regular parish musicians for your wedding. Ken Camara can be reached at 401-808-9409. If you decide to go with another musician besides Ken Camara, you will still need to pay Ken a bench fee.
- 5) **FLOWERS:** Flowers add to the beauty of your wedding; you may either take them with you, or, preferably, leave them in church after the ceremony for the weekend Masses. We have to insist that nothing be taped or tacked to the pews. Use elastic bands or hooks only. Also, we do not approve of the use of candelabra since they drip wax terribly. The aisle for the carpet is 75 feet long.

Most weddings today have a limousine or two who serve complimentary champagne. This is allowed, but please inform the limo driver that the champagne cannot be left out on the sidewalk in front of the church during the ceremony.
- 6) **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Dignity, common sense and good taste should govern the photographer and/or videographer. We ask that they do not go into the sanctuary (where the altar and the bride and groom are located) to video or take pictures. They must check in with the priest before the wedding ceremony.
- 7) **CIVIL ARRANGEMENTS:** A blood test is no longer required, and the license is obtained from the city or town where either the bride or groom resides. It is valid for 90 days and will be returned to the town hall by the priest. Be sure to bring the license to the wedding rehearsal. Witnesses need to be at least 18 years old.
- 8) **REHEARSAL:** Is customarily held the evening before the wedding. All members of the wedding party, including readers, should be present and on time because another rehearsal may follow yours. Our experience is to caution against having a “too young” ring bearer or flower girl. You should bring to the Rehearsal: License & Fees for the Church and Organist.
- 9) **OTHER POINTS:**
 - a) Please be punctual
 - b) Please ask guests NOT to throw rice or confetti
 - c) Some have a wedding without a Mass. Ask the priest about this.
 - d) According to the guidelines, Catholics in good standing are welcome to receive Holy Communion.
 - e) If you have any questions, know that the priests are here to assist you. You will be in our prayers as you prepare to begin your life together in the Sacrament of Marriage.