



SAINT PHILIP'S CHURCH

622 Putnam Avenue
Greenville, RI 02828
401-949-1500



HOW TO BE MARRIED AT SAINT PHILIP'S

- 1) **SET THE DATE:** Speak to one of the priests **8-12 months** before wedding to:
 - A) Reserve the date and the hour, including rehearsal time.
 - B) Schedule one of the following *Marriage Preparation* sessions:
 1. A “**Two-Sunday-Afternoon**” (1:30-5:30) session offered here in St. Philip's Parish School; either two Sundays in March or two Sundays in October. Please register for these sessions through the diocesan Marriage Preparation Office.
 2. 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 .
 3. Any of the other sessions listed in the booklet given to you by the priest. Please send in the registration card **as soon as possible**. If you have any questions, call the *Office of Marriage and Family Life* in the number is listed on the booklet.

N.B. It is required 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) **For Catholics:**
 1. 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 at St. Philip's.
 2. First Communion and Confirmation certificates issued from the church where you received these sacraments.
 - B) **For non-Catholics:**
 1. Copy of Baptism Certificate, if baptized.
 2. Copy of Birth Certificate.
 3. Names of 2 witnesses to be interviewed to complete a “Testimony of Free Status” form.
 - C) **Marriage Preparation** and **Sexuality Seminar** certificates.
 - D) **Marriage license**. The license is to be brought to the rehearsal where the officiant and the witnesses will sign it.

- **Marriages in St. Philip's Church:** *You may invite another priest to perform your ceremony at St. Philip's and he should conduct the rehearsal. If one party is a member of St. Philip's Parish and the marriage will be celebrated at St. Philip's, then the marriage preparation is **normally** done by one of the priests of St. Philip's and not the priest officiating.*
 - **Marriages outside of St. Philip's Church:** *Catholics of Saint Philip's Parish who wish to marry in another church are to be prepared by one of the priests of Saint Philip's Parish, who will give the permission for the marriage to be celebrated in that church. However, if both parties are Catholic, they may be prepared and celebrate the marriage in either one's parish church. To be married in a church other than that to which either Catholic party belongs requires the permission of the proper pastor preparing the couple for marriage. Only the Bishop may grant a dispensation for a Catholic to marry a non-Catholic in a non-Catholic ceremony, but these couples must still undergo the usual marriage preparation under the guidance of the Catholic party's parish priest.*
- 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, there are usually two servers for the ceremony.*
 - 4) **MUSIC:** We clearly prefer that you use our regular parish musicians for your wedding. Ken Camara can be reached at 861-7819. If you decide to go with another musician besides Ken Camara, he will require a **bench fee** in the amount of \$150.00. However you will still need to contact Ken so that he may review and approve any musical selection that is played at Saint Philip's.
 - 5) **FLOWERS:** Flowers add to the beauty of your wedding; outside of the seasons of Advent and Lent, the flowers typically remain in the Church in thanksgiving to God. ***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.
 - 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:** 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. The official witnesses need to be at least 18 years old.
 - 8) **REHEARSAL:** It 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. You should bring to the Rehearsal: **License and Fees for the Church & Organist.**

