

\*\* The unity Candle is **not** a part of the Rite of Marriage of the Catholic Church.

12. Photographers and videographers are permitted in the Church before, during and after the wedding. You must discuss the particulars of their access with the priest/deacon performing the ceremony. We want to insure that proper respect of the Church is observed and that your wedding pictures are taken in a timely manner. **No videographers or photographers are allowed in the choir loft due to safety concerns.**
13. We also trust that your on-going spiritual formation will be taking place during your engagement. Praying together is encouraged. Going to Church and worshiping God is the best way for this to happen. You may also wish to arrange to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession. We greatly encourage you to make the most of the opportunity to ask any questions you might have about the Faith during your preparation time with the priest/deacon. This time is a great opportunity to make a deeper commitment to God as you prepare to make a deep commitment to your future spouse.
14. The St. Rose Church Director of Music, Elizabeth M. Hartnett, will help you in choosing appropriate music for the celebration of your marriage and will provide musical accompaniment. Music chosen should be appropriate for the Sacrament and guest musicians **must** be approved by the Director of Music. The fees are as follows: for the Organist/\$275, and for the Cantor/\$200. Checks should be made payable directly to the musicians & submitted 2 weeks prior to your wedding date. Please contact Elizabeth at the contact information below at least 2 months prior to your wedding date. Elizabeth M. Hartnett: [ehartnett@strosebelmar.com](mailto:ehartnett@strosebelmar.com) or 732-681-0512 ext 420.
14. If you any additional questions or concerns please call the office at 732-681-0512 x 416 and speak to Joann Fossani.



## *Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at the Church of St. Rose Belmar, New Jersey*

*Congratulations on your engagement!*

*You have chosen someone you love to marry for the rest of your lives. Both of you believe that God's Providence has brought you together; therefore, you have decided to celebrate the Rite of Marriage. This pamphlet is intended to help you understand the requirements for preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church and gives you particular information you need for having your wedding here at St. Rose.*

## **Points to Remember**

1. The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have formulated a common policy that requires couples planning to marry to contact the parish priest one year before the ceremony. If you do not contact us early enough, it might be difficult to make proper preparations for your desired date.
2. In the Catholic Church either the bride or groom must be registered in the parish in which the wedding takes place. If the wedding is to take place in another parish, such as a childhood parish, permission from the priest where you are currently registered may be required. In order to be married at St. Rose, either the bride or groom or one of their parents must have been registered for at least 1 year. Alumni from St. Rose High School may also be married in our Church. Permission from the priest of the current parish may also be required.
3. Choosing the rite for your marriage should reflect your current religious practice. If you are regular communicants (attend Mass weekly) and both the bride and groom are Catholics, then a Nuptial Mass (marriage in the context of Mass) is most appropriate. If either party is not Catholic, or if the bride and groom are not regularly practicing their faith, then a Wedding Ceremony is done. Nuptial Masses are presided over by a priest, while ceremonies are generally presided over by a Deacon. You may request one of the priests from St. Rose for a Mass, or one of the deacons for a ceremony, and we will attempt, as schedules permit, to honor your request. If you desire an outside priest or deacon to preside, we will need to know that during the initial contact so that requirements may be met. The outside priest will need to get a **“letter of good standing”** from the Diocese of which he belongs unless the priest is from the Diocese of Trenton. Normally, the priest or deacon who is presiding, whether from St. Rose or another parish, will take care of the paperwork and marriage preparation.
4. Weddings at St. Rose are scheduled on Saturdays at 12:00 noon or 2pm and on Fridays in the late afternoon, usually 4pm. Wedding rehearsals are scheduled according to church availability with the priest/deacon preparing the ceremony.
5. You will be asked to obtain the following documents for your wedding:
  - 1) recently dated (within six months of your wedding date – not the original document) and sealed copy of your Baptismal Certificate.
  - 2) Communion Certificate
  - 3) Confirmation Certificate. (Non-Catholics are only required to show proof of their Baptism and will need two witnesses to testify that they are single and free to marry.)
  - 4) The couple must attend *Pre-Cana, Engaged Encounter* or *To Trust Again* programs together (6 months prior to wedding) and submit the certificate to the priest performing the wedding. The *Pre-Cana* program is offered at St. Rose Church and many other locations throughout the Diocese of Trenton.

*To register for Pre-Cana log into*  
[www.dioceseoftrenton.org/go/precana](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/go/precana)
6. A minimum offering of \$500 is required for all registered members and alumni for the use of the Church and should be paid in full 1 month before your wedding. This offering can be spread out over time according to your means.
7. If you are not a registered member. an alumni of St Rose High School, or live out of the area, a minimum offering of \$800 is required and should be paid in full 1 month before your wedding. This offering can be spread out over time according to your means.
8. A free will offering should be given to the Celebrant and \$10.00 to each Altar Server.
9. To hold a wedding date, a non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required (which is included in \$500 offering). If you are mailing a check for your deposit, please include the wedding date in the memo. Please make checks to St. Rose Church.
10. Any flower arrangements you choose must be left in the Church after the wedding. Any other decorations must be discussed with the priest/deacon preparing you for your wedding.
11. The throwing of rice, confetti flower petals or birdseed and the releasing of balloons are forbidden in the Church or on the Church property.
12. Bubbles and bells are **only** to be used **outside** of the Church building.