



SAINT ANN CHURCH MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARRIAGE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Parish Family of Saint Ann Church. We hope these Guidelines will help you on this journey of wonder and discovery as you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

Once you have called the parish office about your desire to be married at Saint Ann's, the pastor or deacon will arrange to meet with you. The *Preliminary Interview* administered at this meeting will determine your freedom to marry. No wedding date can be scheduled until it has been established that both the man and woman are free to marry.

FACET INVENTORY

After the initial meeting, you will take the FACET Inventory. FACET's innovative approach can provide engaged couples with insights and understanding about themselves and their relationship. FACET will be the starting point of conversations you will have with parish facilitators as you continue your preparation for marriage. In the Archdiocese of Hartford a minimum preparation time of (at least) six months is the norm.

ENGAGED COUPLES CONFERENCE

Each couple preparing for marriage will attend the Engaged Couples Conference or the Engaged Couples Encounter Weekend. These are opportunities to learn, explore and discuss with other engaged couples and facilitators issues and questions about Catholic married life. You should plan to attend a Conference or Encounter Weekend about 3 months prior to the wedding.

The schedules of Conferences and Encounter Weekends are available at <http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/ministries/familylife.htm>, the website of the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Or you may reach the Office at Family.life.office@aohct.org for details.



GUIDELINES FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY

The nuptial ceremony is a public act of worship and the celebration of a sacred rite. Because the church is a place of prayer, certain guidelines are necessary that govern how we celebrate the liturgy. We hope the following information will help as you prepare to be married at Saint Ann Church.

MUSIC

Saint Ann Music Director Peter DeMarco will assist you in choosing wedding music that will conform to the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Hartford. You can reach Peter by e-mail at peterdemarco@sbcglobal.net. Please note that fees for the organist and the soloist are paid to them directly and are not included in the donation to the church.

PHOTOGRAPHERS / VIDEOGRAPHERS

Photographers and videographers should check in with the priest, the deacon or the wedding coordinator at least a half-hour before the wedding begins.

REHEARSAL

The parish wedding coordinator, Ann Eden, will get in touch with you a few weeks before your wedding rehearsal to schedule a meeting. Ann will assist you in the preparation for both the rehearsal and the wedding. Prior to meeting with Ann you should fill out the Selection Form from the booklet "Together for Life." Working together you can choose the readings, prayers and blessings that will be used in your wedding ceremony.

The readers and gift bearers should attend the rehearsal along with all members of the wedding party (the bride, the groom, their parents and all attendants).

MARRIAGE LICENSE and OFFERING

You must apply in person for a Marriage License in the City of Milford. (State law requires that you obtain a Marriage License in the city in which you are getting married.) For complete information contact the City Clerk's office (www.ci.milford.ct.us/city-clerk or 203-783-3210).

The donation to the church for the wedding is \$350 (cash or check). Please bring the donation and your marriage license to the Parish Office at least a week before the scheduled rehearsal.

Congratulations! Saint Ann Parish rejoices with you as you prepare for the beautiful Sacrament of Marriage.