

**The Celebration of Marriage at
St. Andrew the Apostle
Catholic Church**



**St. Andrew the Apostle Church
27 Kresson Road
Gibbsboro NJ 08026**

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WEDDING GUIDELINES



Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding at the Church of St. Andrew the Apostle. We, the priests, staff and parishioners of your parish, wish to provide you with the necessary assistance that you will need as you plan your wedding day. More important, we hope to guide you in the life you will share together. *Remember: a wedding is a day – a marriage is a lifetime.*

A Holy Place

Practically, the church building should not be just a '*nice place*' to provide a suitable background or setting for your marriage. It is a holy place where you as members of the Church relate to God in worship. It is that special part of God's creation in which a sacred event will take place – your sacramental joining together as husband and wife.

Consequently, as you prepare for your marriage, we require you to participate in the sacraments of the Church, especially Mass each Saturday evening or Sunday. Learn to see in the nourishment of the Eucharist the means to grow ever closer to God Almighty and to one another. Avail yourself of the healing strength of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As a sacrament, matrimony requires that those who enter into this special union be free to do so. You will have the opportunity to openly discuss with your priest or deacon any concerns you may have about your freedom to contract marriage in a Catholic church. Not every prior marriage precludes a Catholic ceremony. And often, time can be an invaluable ally in your preparation.

GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING COMMUNION

Catholics

Catholics fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, one should not be conscious of grave sin, have fasted for one hour, and seek to live in charity and love with others. Anyone conscious of grave sin must first be reconciled with God and the Church through the sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). The priest will be available after the rehearsal for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Other Christians

We welcome to this celebration those guests from other Christian traditions, and we pray earnestly for the day when all Christians are fully united at the Eucharistic table. Until that joyful time, however, we cannot extend a general invitation to receive Communion. Catholics believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community that signifies a oneness in faith, life, and worship of the community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist.

Those not receiving sacramental Communion are encouraged to come forward with their arms folded across their chest to receive a blessing from the priest or deacon.

DIRECTIONS TO ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

From I-295 and the Walt Whitman Bridge:

Follow I-295 to Exit 32 (Route 561—Haddonfield, Gibbsboro, Voorhees). At the light, follow the sign for Voorhees and Gibbsboro. Follow Route 561 for 4.3 miles, bearing left when the road divides. Turn left onto Kresson Road. St. Andrew's is immediately on your left.

From the New Jersey Turnpike:

Take Exit 4 to Highway 73 South. Follow 73 South for 5.6 miles (15 traffic lights). When you come to Kresson Road (on the right), you will see a sign for Gibbsboro and Haddonfield. Make a right at the TD Bank, then an immediate left onto Kresson Road. St. Andrew's is 2.2 miles on your right.

From Rt. 73 North: Berlin/Atco:

Take Route 73 North to Route 561 (Haddonfield-Berlin Road). Travel 2.7 miles to Kresson Road. Turn right onto Kresson Road. St. Andrew's is immediately on your left.

Place of the Wedding

Either the bride or the groom who wishes to marry at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church must be a registered member, or a child of a registered member of the parish.

Date of the Wedding

The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey require that arrangements for marriage be made with advance preparation time. Ideally, arrangements should be made at **least one year prior** to the date of the wedding.

In planning the date of your wedding, the liturgical calendar is observed. Weddings normally do not take place during Advent or Lent due to the solemn nature of these liturgical seasons. For the same reason, a wedding cannot be celebrated during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).

Weddings normally take place on Friday evening or Saturday. If, for a reasonable pastoral consideration, you wish your wedding to take place on a Sunday afternoon, the readings and prayers of the Sunday liturgy take precedence. That is to say, you may not choose "wedding readings" for a Sunday wedding.

Time of the Wedding

Saturday weddings are celebrated at 1:00 PM. The maximum time allowed for your wedding ceremony, receiving line, and photographs is 2 hours.

Time of Rehearsal

The rehearsal will take place the evening prior to the wedding at 6:00 PM.

Presider at the Wedding

Under normal circumstances, one of the priests of St. Andrew's Parish presides at the wedding. If you would like a priest or deacon from outside the parish to witness or assist at your wedding, please make known your request during your initial meeting. If the priest or deacon is from outside of the Diocese of Camden, he must secure a letter of suitability from his proper Bishop, indicating that he is in good standing with his Diocese.

If a priest or deacon from outside the parish officiates, the standards and liturgical practices of St. Andrew's parish, as defined in these guidelines must be observed. For clarifications, please call the Pastoral Associate for Worship & Music for details at (856) 784-3878.

St. Andrew the Apostle Pre-Marital Formation Sessions

The marriage preparation program at St. Andrew the Apostle consists of the following steps:

1. Please call the Parish Office (856-784-3878) and complete the Marriage Inquiry Request Form. This form is your formal request to inquire about possible marriage dates, times, and to request a particular priest or deacon.
2. Once your request form is submitted, you will receive a letter and information packet from the Pastor.
3. After you have received and reviewed the letter/informational packet, you must call the office and register for the following formation session. Please accommodate your schedule to attend this session as soon as possible as they are only held a few times throughout the year: Pre-Cana Workshops
4. You must also register to complete one of the NFP (Natural Family Planning Course). This can be done online <https://ccli.org/>.
5. You will meet several times (usually three) with a priest in order to develop a relationship that encourages a sharing of feelings, attitudes, expectations, and beliefs about yourselves and the essential elements of your marriage. A communication inventory called FOCCUS is reviewed during this time.
6. As you complete the Pre-Cana workshops, and Natural Family Planning course, you will receive Certificates of Completion which must be given to the Priest or Deacon.
7. When the two certificates are returned, and you have reviewed the FOCCUS inventory with the priest, you are asked to call the Pastoral Coordinator for Worship & Music, Abby Walsh at 856-784-3878 to arrange the music for your ceremony.
8. The priest or deacon will assist you in planning your wedding liturgy. He will answer any questions you might have and help you make decisions such as whether to have your wedding during a Nuptial Mass or not. The Nuptial Mass is strongly recommended for all Catholic parities, unless the Bride or Groom are non-Catholic.
9. The priest or deacon will assist you in planning your wedding liturgy. He will answer any questions you might have and help you make decisions such as whether to have your wedding during a Nuptial Mass or not. The Nuptial Mass is strongly recommended for all Catholic parities, unless the Bride or Groom are non-Catholic.

WEDDING CHECKLIST

- _____ Submitted Marriage Initial Request Form to Office.
- _____ Acquired Baptismal Certificates & other Documents (Needed for Marriage Prep Inquiry Session)
- _____ Registered for Pre-Cana Workshop:
Date(s) _____
- _____ Registered for NFP (Natural Family Planning Course)
Date(s) _____

- _____ Reviewed FOCCUS Inventory with Priest
- _____ Planned Music with Pastoral Associate for Music and Worship
- _____ Completed Together for Life Planning Sheet & Planned Liturgy with Priest
- _____ Rehearsal: Date _____ Time _____
- _____ Wedding: Date _____ Time _____
- Other Considerations:
_____ Music _____ Musicians _____ Readings
_____ Program _____ Flowers _____ Photographer
_____ Fees and Offerings _____ License

Flowers and Decorations

Seasonal liturgical decorations and furniture already in place in the church must not be moved.

No flowers or decorations are permitted on the altar table. The height of the floral arrangements should not exceed the height of the altar. Arrangements must not obstruct the priest's path. Flower arrangements MUST remain in the church at the conclusion of the wedding, and will be used to honor the Bride and Groom at the weekend Masses.

If you have chosen a wedding date during the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter season

A runner is not permissible if Msgr. Marucci is witnessing your Marriage, as it will obstruct his wheelchair.

Photographs

The photographers should be aware of the sacred nature of the marriage celebration and should conduct themselves in such a manner as not to be a distraction. Pictures may be taken during the celebration, but photographers may not enter the sanctuary area or the space in front of the pews. **The photographers must meet with the Priest 30 minutes before the wedding.**

Altar Servers

It is recommended that you have an altar server present at your wedding. Call the parish office to make arrangements. A small gift for the altar server of \$20 is suggested.

Other financial obligations

Many couples ask what the fee is for the use of our church. At St. Andrew's, we request a minimum donation of \$500 for registered, supporting parishioners and \$1,000 for unregistered, non-supporting parishioners. Supporting parishioners are defined as those who use their Church envelope regularly or participate in our Mail-in offertory or Electronic Giving program. We ask you to make all financial arrangements with the parish office. If you have any questions, please call us at (856) 784-3878.

A non-refundable down payment of 50% is required to reserve the church for your wedding day. You can make these arrangements by contacting the parish office. This stipend goes directly to the parish to cover the costs for fuel, electricity, heating, air conditioning, and clean-up. There is not set fee to be given as a gift to the priest or deacon that prepared you. A stipend gift for the priest is optional.

Please note that all fees and donations must be rendered at least 30 days in advance of the wedding day.

Important Note:

Once you register for Marriage, immediately begin to gather the required documents. These documents are to be brought to the Initial Marriage Inquiry Session:

1. **Baptismal Certificates with Notations (recently dated). These can be obtained from your Church of Baptism**
2. **Copies of First Communion Certificates**
3. **Copies of Confirmation Certificates**
4. **If previously married: please obtain the following documents:**
 - a. **Previous Marriage Certificate**
 - b. **If widow or widower, please obtain Death Notice of prior spouse.**

If divorced, please supply the Decree of Nullity issued by the Diocese, if applicable. Also provide a letter from the Diocese that assisted you with your annulment.

Required Documents for Bride and Groom

1. Baptismal Certificate

If you are Catholic, you must obtain a baptismal certificate from the church in which you were baptized. This certificate must have a current date, not be the original document, and contain notations. Please call the church where you were baptized and inform them that you are getting married and need a recently dated copy of your Baptismal Certificate, **with notations.**

If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, you must provide a baptismal certificate. If the baptismal certificate is impossible to obtain, you must obtain an affidavit of baptism.

If you have never been baptized, you must provide an affidavit of non-baptism. The affidavit is not required if you are Jewish or Islamic.

If you have never been baptized, or if you were baptized in a religion other than the Roman Catholic Church, you must provide an affidavit of Freedom to Marry, which is to be signed and notarized by two witnesses that have a historical relationship with you. The priest will provide you with this form.

2. Previous Marriage Documents

If you are a widow or widower, you must provide a certificate of the previous marriage and a death certificate for your former spouse.

If you are divorced, and were previously married in the Catholic Church, you must provide a certificate of the previous marriage, a copy of the civil divorce, and the letter indicating Freedom to Marry from the Annulment Process.

If you are divorced, Catholic, and were **NOT** previously married in the Catholic Church, you must provide a certificate of the previous marriage, a copy of the civil divorce, and a decree of nullity. The priest will try to assist you through this process.

3. Marriage License

You must obtain a New Jersey marriage license, dated not more than 30 days before the wedding. You must apply for a license at least 72 hours before the license can be issued.

If the bride is a resident of New Jersey, the license must be obtained from the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the municipality where she lives.

If the bride is a non-resident of New Jersey and the groom is a resident of New Jersey, the license must be obtained in the municipality where the groom lives.

If both bride and groom are non-residents, the license must be obtained in the municipality where the marriage is to be performed.

Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal. **No marriage can be witnessed without a license.**

The pink copy of the license, signed by the priest and witnesses, remains with you after the wedding. The blue copy remains at the church. The original copy will be mailed to the town hall after the wedding. The church will also issue a certificate of your marriage.

Registrar of Vital Statistics

Gibbsboro	49 Kirkwood Road	(856) 783-6655
Voorhees	620 Berlin Road	(856) 429-4482
Cherry Hill	820 Mercer Street	(856) 488-7865
Marlton	984 Furtherton Road	(856) 983-2900
Mount Laurel	100 Mount Laurel Road	(856) 234-0001
Berlin	59 S. White Horse Pike	(856) 767-7777
Clementon	101 Gibbsboro Road	(856) 783-0284

4. Certificates of Completion

Two Certificates must be obtained as part of the Marriage Preparation Formation Program. Pre-Cana Workshop, and NFP [Natural Family Planning Training]. The certificates will be issued to you at the conclusion of each program that you attend. Please contact the Parish Office (856-784-3878) to register for each of these programs.

5. Parental Permission

If you are under 21 years of age, your parents or guardians must provide you with written permission to marry.

6. Banns of Marriage

The announcement of your wedding should be published in your parish on the three Sundays preceding your marriage. St. Andrew the Apostle will place these announcements in our Sunday bulletin. If either of you belongs to a different parish, we will contact your parish priest in order to arrange for your banns to be announced.

Planning the Liturgy

Toward the end of the process the priest or deacon will provide you with the booklet Together in Christ. In this you will find scripture readings and prayers which are appropriate for your wedding. Please take some time to look over these readings together and fill out the planner in the back of the booklet. You can return the planner to the priest or deacon once you have completed your selections.

Wedding Music

Arrangements for your wedding music are to be made through Abby Walsh our Pastoral Associate for Worship & Music at (856) 784-3878 or awalsh@churchofstandrews.org. She will assist you in the selection of music and musicians. Any outside cantors/musicians must be approved by the music director ahead of time. You are required to use our Music Director as your Principal Cantor. Should you wish to use another accompanist, they must be extremely familiar with the Catholic Wedding Ritual, and ALL music is to be approved by the Music Director. If you use an outside accompanist, a bench fee of \$50 is to be paid to the principal accompanist for his/her supervisory role. We strongly advise you to use our parish musicians. Extra fees will be charged for rehearsals with outside musicians.

Music at your wedding ceremony must be appropriate for the liturgical celebration. Music that was not written for the purpose of worship is not appropriate for use at the wedding liturgy. The music that you select should reflect the theme of your Scripture readings. Songs from opera, musicals, movies, and other entertainment venues are not suitable. Musicians' fees must be arranged with the cantor and the musicians, not through the parish office. Organist fee is \$200 and Cantor is \$200 Musicians' fees must be received in advance of the wedding day.