

St. Clement's Church

Redemptorist Fathers

231 Lake Avenue

Saratoga Springs, New York 12866-2729

www.scpsy.org

PRACTICAL PARISH NORMS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

**Do not make any arrangements for the reception
before seeing a priest at St. Clement's**

Holy Scripture affirms that a man and a woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, flesh of his flesh, his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a 'helpmate'; she thus represents God truth whom comes our help. Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been in the beginning: "So they are no longer two, but one flesh." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1605)

- 1. ST. CLEMENT'S MEMBERSHIP** -- As in all the sacraments, the Sacrament of Marriage is always celebrated in the context of the Christian Community. Therefore, one of the parties must have a distinct connection to Saint Clement's. (For example, they were raised in the parish, their parents still reside here, and they have many family members that are registered parishioners. It is not sufficient, for instance, to say one's aunt and uncle are parishioners.) Those that live in the geographical area must be registered with the parish and regularly practicing Catholics. This basic guideline is broad enough to accommodate most situations and no exceptions will be made.
- 2. MARRIAGE DATE** -- *The date for the marriage will be finalized based on the following:*
An interview with the pastor or one of the priests.
The couple agrees to attend the required Diocesan Programs: Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter.
- 3. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE** — If you are a Catholic (not baptized at St. Clement's), you are required to obtain, from the church where you were baptized, a copy of your Baptismal certificate dated within six months prior to the marriage.
- 4. WEDDING DAY AND TIMES -**
Friday evenings at 5:30 PM. or Saturday at 11 AM., 1:00 PM, 5:30 PM, or 6:00 PM.
Weddings during the Lenten Season are discouraged.
Nuptial Masses are prohibited during Lent.
Weddings cannot be scheduled for Sunday.
- 5. REHEARSAL** — Depending on the wedding time scheduled, rehearsals will be held: Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. or Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (perhaps slightly later if there is a 4:30pm wedding that day).
All rehearsals are limited to one half (½)hour.
The Catholic party will go to confession at the end of the rehearsal, if they have not recently done so.
On the evening of the rehearsal, the couple is required to bring: 1) the civil license, 2) the church offering of \$300, and 3) the bench/organist fee of \$200, and the \$100 fee for the soloist, if this is applicable.
Make sure the entire wedding party is there on time. Remind them that the wedding is a sacred moment and to conduct themselves accordingly. Because we normally have several rehearsals on one night, you are limited to only the time for which you are scheduled. It is your responsibility to make sure the wedding party is on time and ready to begin the practice. If there is a visiting priest, our sacristan will be present at the rehearsal to facilitate and familiarize the visitor with the church and wedding procedure. Please remind the visiting priest of the necessity to keep to the designated times for both the rehearsal and the wedding.

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- 6. MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS** -- Please call the Music Director. Jeff Stein (518-207-6779) at least two months before the wedding for an appointment. Liturgical music and all other arrangements will be discussed. The fee is \$200 for the organist and \$100 for the soloist.
- 7. THE CHURCH OFFERING** -- for all weddings is \$300. This includes the offering for the use of the Church. When a visiting priest is requested to preside at a wedding, arrangements for a stipend are between the couple and the presider.
- 8. FLOWERS** — are optional for the wedding. However:
If there is a second wedding that day, we encourage the brides to get together for the cost of the flowers. No ribbons, candles, etc. are to be fastened to benches by means of tape, wire or metal fasteners. Nothing is to be placed on either of the Altars.
Flower girls must not drop flower petals (real or fake) down the aisle.
A runner is permitted although not recommended. If the florist inquires about the length for your runner, the aisle is 70 feet long.
- 9. PHOTOGRAPHER / VIDEO PERSON** -- *Because of some difficulty in the past:*
The photographer/video person can take pictures up front as the entrance procession begins. At all other times during the ceremony the photographer/video person must remain at least 10 benches from the sanctuary area. At no time will the photographer or video person be allowed to move around the church during the ceremony. No video equipment will be allowed in the Sanctuary area, even if it is just miming unattended. Because of the sanctity of the Sanctuary area we ask that the pictures only be taken in the area where the wedding occurred. We permit you to stay up to one half hour after the ceremony. This time may be used for a receiving line or for photographs.
We highly recommend that an announcement be made and published in your program that **all** cell phones be turned off during the wedding ceremony. This will allow the professionals to properly do their work.
- 10. AFTER THE CEREMONY** –
You are permitted to stay up to one half hour after the ceremony. This time maybe used for a receiving line or for photographs.
As pictures are being taken, the bride or groom should assign two of the ushers to clean up the major items from the church after the wedding. That means if there is a runner please put it in the sacristy (behind the altar), along with any remaining programs used for the ceremony, empty flower cartons, etc.
- 11. INTER-FAITH WEDDINGS** — There is only a ceremony when the couple to be married share different faiths.
- 12. THE WEDDING ITSELF** – A few points worth mentioning: 1) Bridesmaids and groomsmen will be seated in the front pew during a wedding Mass; if it is a ceremony, seats in front of the first pew may be used, if so desired. 2) Care will be taken to choose lectors who understand and fulfill their role as they ought; please do not give this ministry to the unchurched. 3) Communion will be under one species for the assembly. Only the celebrant(s) and the couple will be communicated under both species.
- 13. FINAL NOTE** — *Please inform family and friends that:* The throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, etc., either within or outside the church is not allowed.
Beverages or food are not permitted in the Church and “No chewing gum!”
The priest hopes to begin the wedding at the fixed time. If it starts late and you find you do not have sufficient time for photographs afterwards, that is the consequence.