

Saint Clement's Church
231 Lake Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

www.scpny.org
Rev June 2026

Parish Norms for the Celebration of the Sacrament of
Marriage

**** Please do not make any other arrangements before seeing a priest****

1. Saint Clement's Connection. --- As with all of the sacraments, the Sacrament of Marriage is always celebrated in the context of the Catholic community. Therefore the bride and/or groom must have a connection to the parish of Saint Clement's. That connection can take the form of: the bride and/or groom **live within** the geographical boundaries of the parish, the bride and/or groom were **raised** in the parish, or the bride and/or groom's parents or grandparents are **registered** parishioners. A wedding of parties not connected to the parish as described above, is considered for purposes of these instructions to be an "out of area resident" wedding.

2. Special Notes for Out of Area Resident Weddings. --- Out of area resident weddings are welcomed. Begin by contacting the local parish priest where you currently reside and worship. **A)** The couple must obtain permission to marry from their local parish priest, and the local parish priest must assure completion of all marriage prerequisites and pre-nuptial investigations. **All requests for out of area resident weddings must be made to Saint Clement's, on the couple's behalf, by the couple's local parish priest.** **B)** For out of area resident weddings, the couple must provide a Catholic priest or deacon to preside over the wedding. This priest or deacon must obtain permission to preside over the wedding. If one of our priests officiates the wedding a stipend of \$200 is expected. **To preserve the sacred nature of the celebration and insure consistency with parish guidelines, the Church wedding coordinator directs all aspects of the rehearsal and wedding that takes place within the Church and on Church property. Private wedding planners may assist the couple; however, final direction for all Church related matters rests with the Church Coordinator.**

3. Marriage Date. --- The date and time for the marriage will be penciled into the Saint Clement's Mass Book **after** an interview takes place between the couple and a Saint Clement's priest or deacon, (or local parish priest for out of area resident weddings), and the priest or deacon agrees that the wedding can proceed.

The date and time for the marriage will be officially finalized in the Mass Book **after: A)** All marriage pre-requisites and pre-nuptial investigations performed as a result of the interview are complete, and documentation is received by Saint Clement's, **B)** The couple attends an approved pre-cana program, and **C) [For out of area resident weddings]**, the presiding priest has permission to preside at Saint Clement's.

4. Baptismal Certificate. --- If you are Catholic (and baptized elsewhere), you are required to obtain from the parish where you were baptized, a recently signed and sealed Baptismal Certificate within six months prior to the wedding. No copies will be accepted. If you are baptized in another faith, we would also like, if possible, proof of your baptism.

5. Wedding Date & Times. --- The following times can be reserved for weddings. These specific times are chosen because there are other events (funerals, baptisms, confessions, Masses, etc.) which occur on a regular basis. Friday evenings at 6:00 PM. Saturdays at 11:00* AM, 1:00 PM, or 6:00 PM. Weddings will not be held on Sundays. Weekday weddings start times can be no sooner than 4:00 pm.

* This time is not always available because baptisms may be scheduled then. Please consult the Parish secretary to see if that time is available for that particular Saturday.

6. Rehearsal. --- Depending upon the wedding date and time, rehearsal will be held at the following times. For Friday weddings, rehearsal will be at 6 o'clock on Thursday evening. For Saturday weddings, rehearsal will be at 6 o'clock on Friday evening. **IN THE EVENT OF MULTIPLE WEDDINGS** (for example, one on Friday and another on Saturday), we will request some flexibility of both parties to accomplish the rehearsals in good order. Please keep this in mind. Thank you.

Please tell your rehearsal party to arrive promptly, properly dressed, and without any food, beverages, or chewing gum.

7. Fees. --- On the evening of the rehearsal, the couple is required to bring the following: **A)** the civil marriage license, **B)** the balance of fees owed to the church. The wedding will not take place without the outstanding balance paid in full. Contact the music director Karey Trimmings for Music fees 518-598-4945.

*** Note: Church offering for out of area weddings is \$1,000**

8. Music Arrangements. --- Please call the Music Minister for an appointment at least three (3) months before the wedding. **Karey Hall-Trimings** can be reached at the following number: **518-598-4945**. If the couple has a guest soloist (family/friend) they will be allowed to sing one song, at the discretion of the music director.

9. Flowers & Decorations. --- Floral arrangements are optional at a wedding. Flowers may be placed near the altar, but not on it. Anything attached to the benches or pews must be done without the use of tape or any other means that would harm the wood or its finish. **ALL** flowers and arrangements must be removed **immediately** after the wedding is complete. (Please designate someone among family and friends to do this.) Florist will be allowed to bring the flowers in 1 hour before the wedding.

10. Photos & Video. --- Photographers are free to take pictures in the body of the church, but they may not enter the sanctuary (where the steps begin). Since they are professionals, it is expected they will maintain a discrete distance from the wedding party as they move about, but particularly during the marriage ceremony proper. Photographs may be taken after the ceremony or Mass, but the photographer and participants must depart the church in a timely manner to make room for the next use of the church. (A prime example is that confessions begin at 2:30 on Saturday afternoons.) If you are taking pictures outside (e.g. by the grotto), we would suggest doing that after taking all of your in-church pictures. In a similar vein, we hope that you will work with the priest to inform everyone that cell phones need to be silenced during this time. Thank you.

11. After the Ceremony. --- Please make sure that someone is assigned to clean up (flowers, unity candle, other decorations) **immediately** after the wedding.

12. Inter-faith Weddings. --- Where the bride and groom share different faiths, only a ceremony will be celebrated.

13. The Wedding Itself. --- Please take care to choose lectors who fully understand their role.
If a Mass is celebrated, the Eucharist will only be shared under one species, namely the host.

14. Several Other Serious Notes. --- Please inform family and friends that the use of rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals etc. is prohibited. Runners are not allowed. Beverages, food, and chewing gum are not permitted in the church. If **alcoholic beverages** are discovered, the wedding will be immediately cancelled. Additionally, if the ceremony or Mass does not begin on time, you may discover that there will not be sufficient time for photographs. Unfortunately, that will be the consequence if you delay in the start of your wedding.
It is your duty to inform your family, friends, and guests of anything in these instructions that applies to them.

15. Some Final Points To Ponder. --- It should be the goal of every Catholic to receive the Sacrament of Marriage in a state of grace. Therefore we highly encourage Catholic brides/grooms to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the final days leading up to your wedding.

Please keep in mind that this is a Catholic wedding, and that you are entering into a sacred covenant between yourselves, and God. We are celebrating this life-changing sacrament with you and so we rejoice and hope that it is the beginning of a beautiful and life-long blessing. **GODSPEED!!!!**