

## THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

*Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St Benedicta*

*Parish of St Mary of the Assumption*

*Staten Island, NY*



God is love,  
and those who live in love live in union with God,  
and God lives in union with them.

*1 John 4, 16.*

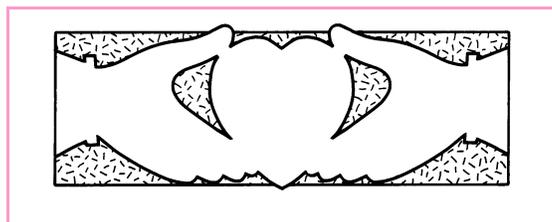


Since our parish church is not a non-denominational wedding chapel, we believe that a marriage founded on Jesus Christ is the best assurance of a happy marriage. Our church has convictions about marriage which are particularly Christian and Catholic.

Because marriage is a sacrament of the Catholic Church, it is a joyful celebration of the presence of Jesus Christ in the life of a married couple and in the life of the Christian community. Through the sacramental presence of the Risen Lord, a married couple's love for one another brings the love of God to others -- to their own children, and also to many others.

Because marriage is a sacrament, those who are planning to be married are called to a time of spiritual formation before the wedding. Our parish is happy to assist them in this formation in the course of several meetings with a parish priest or another member of the pastoral team. Some couples will also receive assistance through participation in a Pre-Cana program, or some other program provided by the Archdiocese of New York.

Please make an appointment to speak with a priest of our parish at least six months prior to the time which you have chosen for the wedding. Only after consultation will a date be set in the parish calendar. Please be advised not to put any money down for a catering hall or wedding reception without first confirming a date with a priest of the parish.



*CONTINUED*

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE**

*These are the requirements for marriage in our parish:*

- A genuine and lasting love for one another, and for the children which may come from the marriage.
- Faith in God's love revealed in Jesus Christ.
- Baptism in the Catholic Church by at least one of the partners (and ordinarily First Communion and Confirmation).
- A recent copy of the baptismal certificate (usually dated within the previous six months).
- Two official witnesses for the wedding (often called the best man and maid-of-honor) who will sign the marriage license at the wedding.
- An offering for the use of the church.
- A marriage license from the City of New York (*which may be obtained at the City Clerk's office in Borough Hall.*) Do not apply for this license until sixty days prior to the wedding.
  - *NOTE.* Unlike other countries, Catholics in the United States need not, and should not, take part in a civil marriage ceremony prior to the Catholic wedding. In the United States the Catholic priest or deacon acts as a civil representative of the State, and will notify the city when the wedding has taken place.

### **WHO CAN BE MARRIED IN OUR PARISH?**

- Baptized Catholics, at least one of whom should be a member of our parish. (*This is usually understood to mean an "active member" -- that is, a Catholic who is sincere about the practice of our faith, and celebrates it through participation in Mass and the sacraments.*)
- Catholics who have no "impediment" to their marriage. Some impediments are easy to resolve; some are more difficult; a few are impossible. So please speak with a parish priest.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- Music, flowers, photographs, limousines, expensive clothes are NOT required. These things are merely social custom. They are not requirements of the Catholic Church. The only requirements are listed above.
- A couple should think clearly and seriously about their financial situation before they make expensive arrangements for a wedding. It is unwise to begin a marriage with heavy debts.