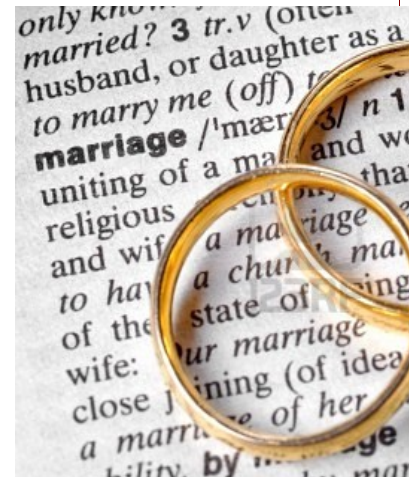




The Sacrament of Matrimony



Saint George Church

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Erie, PA 16509

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Visit us:





Congratulations!

Congratulations on your decision to enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony. As husband and wife you will make a sacred covenant to each other and to God. We at Saint George Church are delighted to assist with your wedding preparations leading to a lifelong marriage.

Preparation

Marriage is an important decision that requires thorough thought, planning and preparation. Engaged couples wishing to marry in the Church are required to:

- Marry in a parish where at least one in the couple is a member.
- [Contact the church](#) six months prior to the desired wedding date.
- Meet with a Priest or Deacon to review the meaning of the Sacrament, details of the process and to plan the ceremony.
- Attend a [Pre-Cana](#), [Engagement Encounter](#), or [Nova](#) (if one or both in the couple have been previously married).
- Submit required documents including:
 - o Sacramental Certificates:
 - Catholics - Baptismal Certificate (to be requested from the parish in which the Sacrament was performed, requirement waived if it took place at Saint George Church).
 - Non-Catholics – Baptismal Certificate or written testimony regarding the service that took place.
 - Previously Married – a Death Certificate of deceased spouse or an Annulment Decree.
 - o [Civil Marriage License](#)—to be obtained one month prior to the wedding date at the Erie County Courthouse.

To help you plan and prepare, access the Saint George Church wedding checklist ([insert link](#)).

Liturgical Celebration

The Catholic Rite of Marriage takes place within the Sacred Liturgy - the Church's praise of God and a celebration of the universal church. The wedding liturgy reflects this when a groom and bride profess their solemn vows to each other before God and His people assembled.



- Planning – The couple will meet with a Priest or Deacon to outline options available for the ceremony. The rite usually involves a Nuptial Mass, the most appropriate celebration for a bride and groom who are both Catholic. When one party is non-Catholic, an Inter-denominational celebration may be discussed.
- Ceremony Dates/Times – Weddings are generally scheduled for 1PM on Saturday. The church is available to you one hour before the ceremony and must be vacated one hour after. Requests for days of the week other than Saturday may be requested but cannot be scheduled on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligations and Holy Week.
- Music – Music is intended to enhance the worship service. The [Minister of Music](#) at Saint George Church is the primary contact for planning the wedding and will also help you to select a musical program that meets the Church's recognized requirements and your preferences. An organist and soloist will be provided. If a musician outside of the church offering is preferred, please discuss this with the Minister of Music. A CD of song selections will be provided to you; [click here for additional options \(link\)](#).
- Photography and Videography– Video and still photography can be used within Saint George Church. One photographer may move freely about the Church during the ceremony but is not permitted in the sanctuary (the round marble area inside the communion rails) or in front of the congregation. Post-ceremony pictures may be taken within the sanctuary up until 3PM on Saturday. Live streaming may also be available at an additional cost.
- Fees – The below fees are to be paid two weeks prior to your wedding date:
 - Church Venue Coordinator fee - \$100.
 - Musicians fee - \$400 (includes consultation, preparation, ceremony service for soloist and organist).
 - Altar Server (2) fee - \$20 (\$10 pp); note: the couple may suggest the servers or leave the choice to the Celebrant.
 - Celebrant fee – There is no required fee, but a monetary gift of \$150 to the Celebrant (Priest or Deacon) is suggested.
- Flowers and Decorations – Flowers and decorations can add to the beauty of your wedding ceremony. Flowers are allowable within the sanctuary but not on the altar. Flowers or decorations may be placed at the pews but tape and other connection methods that



remove pew varnish are prohibited. Following the ceremony, rice, birdseed, confetti and flower petals may not be thrown on Church property; bubbles blown outside are allowed. All decorations, except flowers, are to be removed after the wedding ceremony.

- Rehearsal – Rehearsals usually last one hour and take place the evening before the wedding. Please consult the Priest or Deacon for scheduling. Be sure to invite all involved with the ceremony (e.g. Wedding Party, gift bearers, etc.) and encourage a prompt start and completion. The organist and soloist do not attend the rehearsal.
- Miscellaneous Logistics – The parish meeting room is available for the bride and her party to dress before the ceremony. The ceremony entrance procession occurs at the Georgian Way aisle (55' long). Cars for the bride, groom and wedding party are allowed in the handicapped parking spots outside the Georgian Way entrance (nearest the parking lot). Alcoholic beverages are forbidden in the Church or anywhere on Church property.

Thank You

We appreciate your interest in having your marriage celebrated and blessed at Saint George Church. Again, congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding. We look forward to working with on this important sacramental event.