



Wedding Checklist



Contact us to discuss date and procedures: This should be done a year ahead of your desired date, before any other arrangements are made. Please bring a new Baptismal certificate, with notations, from your church of baptism.



Submit wedding deposit to confirm and reserve your date. We will hold your date for one week at no cost. A non-refundable \$200 deposit is required to hold the date beyond the initial week.



Schedule rehearsal date: Best done at your first wedding preparation meeting.



Attend Pre-Cana and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage classes.



Submit your wedding fees. These are \$2,100, which includes the cantor and organist. More musical options are available. Please do this four months before your wedding date.



Consult with our music ministry to discuss music for your ceremony.



Apply for a civil marriage license at least two weeks before the ceremony. [JC Marriage License FAQs](#)



Rehearsal: Allow about 30 minutes in our church. Bring your marriage license! We will get all the signatures needed then in order to focus on the ceremony on your wedding day.



Wedding Day: With our very best wishes!



Special Circumstances



If you're a parishioner of another Catholic church but would like to marry in our beautiful, well-located church: Please contact your parish priest first, before contacting us. He will handle your marriage preparation, wedding rehearsal, and perform the ceremony here. We must receive your completed documents, plus a letter of permission to marry here from your church and your priest's credentials, a month before the ceremony.



If you're an OLC parishioner but would like to marry in another Catholic Church: contact us and Fr. Bryan will prepare you for the sacrament.



If the bride or groom is a non-Catholic, baptized Christian: please provide a copy of the baptismal certificate.



If the bride or groom is not affiliated with any religion: No problem. One of the marrying parties must be Roman Catholic.



If you're already civilly married and would like to enter into a sacramental Catholic marriage (convalidation): please provide a copy of the civil marriage certificate and new copies of your baptismal certificates and we will prepare you for the sacrament.



Things to Know

- ♥ Our Lady of Czestochowa has a small **parking lot** on the opposite corner of Warren and Sussex Streets.
- ♥ The **marriage license**, which you must obtain from the City Clerk of Jersey City, should be brought to the rehearsal. The honor attendants will sign it there and our Church Office will file it with the city after the ceremony to make the marriage civilly valid.
- ♥ The groom should **arrive at OLC** about a half-hour before the ceremony; the bride, about fifteen minutes ahead.
- ♥ **Photographers and videographers** are welcome in church, but must not distract from the sacrament. They're not permitted in the sanctuary and must not make noise. Pictures before and after the ceremony are permitted.
- ♥ A Catholic marriage ceremony is complete unto itself and does not accommodate any other components. Please do not write your own **vows**.
- ♥ A "**unity candle**" is not included in our marriage ceremonies, but we do encourage dedicating a small floral bouquet and prayer to our Blessed Mother at her altar.
- ♥ **Bubbles** may be blown outside after the ceremony. We do not permit **flower petals, rice, or birdseed** to be thrown inside **or outside** our church, nor **aisle runners**, for safety's sake.
- ♥ Neither **candles nor balloons** may decorate the church, and please do not bring **signs**. Flowers are always appropriate.
- ♥ Everyone -- the couple and the wedding party -- should **dress appropriately** for receiving or witnessing a holy sacrament in a Catholic church.
- ♥ **Security Deposit** of \$100 will be returned unless:
 - The wedding begins more than 30 minutes late due to the wedding party
 - Materials are left in the church after the ceremony
- ♥ **All fees** must be paid at least four months prior to the wedding or the date will be forfeited.