

SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY



# Your Church Wedding



700 Wyckoff Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ 07481  
[www.saintelizabeths.org](http://www.saintelizabeths.org) | 201-891-1122

We, the clergy and staff of Saint Elizabeth's, congratulate you on your upcoming wedding. May God grant you a long and happy life together! You will find this brochure helpful as you plan your wedding. Once you have secured your date with the priest or deacon, our custom is to allow roughly one year for preparation. Exceptions can be made.

## Preliminary Steps

1. If you choose to have a guest priest or deacon (relative or friend) officiate at your wedding, you will need to complete all the paperwork with him well in advance. The guest presider will need to provide a letter of good standing from his diocese or religious order.
2. You need to obtain a **re-issued** baptismal certificate from the church where you were baptized. This is done by calling the church where you were baptized to tell them you are getting married and need a new certificate. Have the baptismal certificate mailed to you. A baptismal certificate is also required for a non-Catholic Christian.
3. You must attend both a "Pre-Cana" course and a "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage" session. These programs are designed to prepare you for a successful marriage. To register, go online at [www.rcan.org/famlife/precana.htm](http://www.rcan.org/famlife/precana.htm) or call the Pre-Cana office at 973-497-4328. Certificates will be given to you at the end of both sessions.
4. You are required to complete the online FOCCUS compatibility test. Send a note to Debbie McTiernan at [Debbiem@saintelizabeths.org](mailto:Debbiem@saintelizabeths.org) and she will email the test with instructions to both of you.
5. At your second meeting with the priest or deacon, please bring your re-issued baptismal certificates and the two marriage course certificates. Contact Debbie to arrange this second meeting.
6. For non-Catholic brides or grooms, affidavits are needed from two witnesses to attest to your freedom to marry. The witnesses can be parents, siblings, or someone who has known you for a long time. Please bring your witnesses to a weekend Mass at Saint Elizabeth's to facilitate the signing of this paperwork before the priest or deacon.
7. Please obtain a State of New Jersey Marriage License from your hometown or from Wyckoff. The license is valid for one month only; you must allow the town a few days to process your request. Hand in your marriage license to whomever is leading your rehearsal.

## Your Wedding Ceremony

1. Weddings may take place at anytime, however, most couples choose a Friday evening, a Saturday afternoon, or a Sunday afternoon. The latest start for a wedding on Saturday afternoon is 3 PM; a Sunday wedding can start between 2 PM and 4 PM.
2. Please contact Stacie Yao, our Wedding Music Director, at SYao@saintelizabeths.org or 201-891-1122 ext. 222 as soon as possible to get your wedding on her calendar and to plan your music. Please bring your "Together for Life" booklet to this planning session. You will receive this wedding planning guide from the priest or deacon during your second meeting.
3. The "Together for Life" booklet provides reading selections for your ceremony. Choose the ones you like, and let the priest or deacon know these choices when you meet with him at least one month before the wedding to finalize the details of your ceremony.
4. The wedding rehearsal should be scheduled with Debbie McTiernan. It usually takes place the night before. The rehearsal takes approximately 45 minutes. At that time, please bring your marriage license, the Unity Candle (optional), and your programs. Payment for the Music Director and cantor plus the donation for the church is given to the person leading the rehearsal.
5. While Saint Elizabeth's does not have a set fee for weddings, it is customary to make a free-will donation to the church. Most people give between \$400 and \$1,000. You may wish to give an additional smaller gift to the priest or deacon, who is officiating at your wedding, but that is not mandatory.
6. Altar servers may be provided for a Nuptial Mass from among the children of our parish. You may give them a small donation (\$20 is normal). If you are planning to have a relative or friend act as an Altar server, please let Debbie know.
7. Keep in mind that very young flower girls and/or ring bearers might be nervous and not perform well.
8. A Nuptial Mass lasts about 50 minutes, while a Wedding Ceremony is about 10-15 minutes shorter. You may have a receiving line with your parents outside the church (weather permitting) or in the narthex, or at your place of reception.

## Photos and Video

All photographers and videographers should introduce themselves to the priest or deacon when they arrive. Please let your photographer and videographer know that they may not use bright lights or flashes during the wedding. In addition, they are asked to be discreet, respectful, and to not disrupt the wedding.

## Decorations

Seasonal flowers are always on the altar. If you would like more, please use the size and location of our flowers as a guideline and speak with your florist to make sure that your arrangements are delivered at least an hour in advance of your wedding.

Aisle runners are permitted, however, we strongly recommend the higher quality runner to avoid shredding which happens with the cheaper versions. We discourage the dropping of rose petals by flower girls, but if you really want this, you must have someone clean up the petals immediately after your wedding.

## Optional Ideas

If you wish to light a Unity Candle after your vows, which symbolizes your marital bond, please be sure to let the presider know. The church does not provide the candles nor the stand.

It is customary, but optional, to present a bouquet at the statue of Mary during the singing of Ave Maria after Communion.

Throwing rice, bird seed, rose petals, confetti, or other objects is not permitted. We suggest bubbles or small hand bells.

## Summary Checklist

- \_\_\_ Re-issued baptismal certificates
- \_\_\_ Certificate from Pre-Cana
- \_\_\_ Certificate from God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage
- \_\_\_ FOCCUS Compatibility Test
- \_\_\_ Contact Stacie Yao regarding music
- \_\_\_ Affidavit (if non-Catholic bride or groom)
- \_\_\_ Schedule Wedding Rehearsal
- \_\_\_ Fees for music ministers
- \_\_\_ Donation to church
- \_\_\_ Request Altar servers (if you so desire)
- \_\_\_ State of New Jersey Marriage License

## Recommended Reading

The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman

Visit our website for further information at [www.saintelizabeths.org](http://www.saintelizabeths.org)

We wish you a most joyous wedding at Saint Elizabeth's!