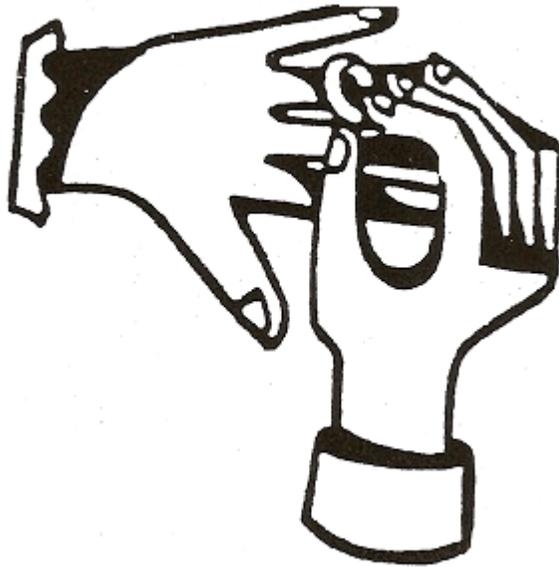


MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Common policy of the Archdiocese of Newark asks that engaged couples begin their preparation to give and receive this sacrament one year prior to the wedding date. Please call the rectory for an appointment.



**God is Love; let us love one another
as He has loved us.**

A WEDDING IS A DAY A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME!

LET'S START HERE

Congratulations! You have both reached an important milestone in your lives in deciding to marry. As it states in the actual marriage rite:

“Freely and without reservation you will give yourselves to each other in marriage, loving and honoring each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives, accepting children lovingly from God, bringing them up according to the law of Christ and His Church.*”

*(For marriages between a Catholic and a person of another faith, the question of which faith your children are to be raised, is discussed on a personal private level.)

You will both consent to these intentions of marriage as you stand before God, the Church's minister and all your guests on your wedding day, the day on which you will exchange solemn vows by which you will become husband and wife, assuming the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity.

Your officiating minister and the entire staff of Our Lady of Victories will help you in anyway possible to prepare not only for your wedding day but also for your married life.

Because Matrimony is a Sacrament, IT IS GOVERNED BY CHURCH RITUAL. This means that there are certain requirements that are determined by the Church only. These requirements have to do with what you would understand as the “ceremony”. The ritual requirements for the Sacrament of Marriage must be the same for everyone. While there is some flexibility and choice in terms of the prayers, readings and the music, the Church does insist that certain guidelines be followed.

In order to facilitate your understanding of these matters and to enable you to make good choices for the music of your wedding and the other areas of the RITE OF MARRIAGE, the Church has instituted policies concerning the Sacrament of Matrimony. All marriages must comply with these guidelines. You are therefore requested to thoroughly read and study the following pages of this document so as to enable you to understand and follow these requirements more readily.

Thank you for your cooperation and we shall endeavor to make your Wedding Day a most beautiful and memorable one.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Bryan F.J. Adamcik
Pastor

A FEW BASIC FACTS

We welcome, of course, our parishioners and anyone else who wishes to be married at Our Lady of Victories.

- Either you or your fiancé should be a parishioner of Our Lady of Victories in order to have your wedding here.
- If neither you nor your fiancé are parishioners of Our Lady of Victories, then a “letter of permission” to be married here is needed from your respective pastors. (This applies to the Catholic parties.)
- If you are a member of our parish, we would hope that you are a participating member of our parish community, properly registered.
- Any Priest or Deacon of Our Lady of Victories is available to you upon request. Once you know who the celebrant of your wedding is to be, he will contact you or you should contact him as soon as possible. ***If you have already received this booklet, you should bring it with you to your first appointment.***
- With permission, visiting Priests or Deacons are welcome to celebrate your wedding. If you are to have a visiting celebrant it should be predetermined if he is to do the preparation work (discussed below) with you or if one of the Priests of Our Lady of Victories is to do it.
- If applicable, ministers and rabbis are also welcome to be part of the wedding ceremony.
- At least one of the two witnesses is to be Roman Catholic: if they are married they should be properly married according to Church Law.
- The wedding party is expected to be on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding.
- The throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, and flower petals etc. inside or outside of the Church is **PROHIBITED**.
- Additional candles, hurricane lamps, balloons, trellises or canopies are **PROHIBITED**.
- We remind you that your wedding is taking place in Church which is a sacred place therefore **NO** hooting, whistling, shouting or standing on the pews should be evident at any point during the wedding ceremony.
- We ask you to remind your guests to turn **OFF** or put on vibrate all cell phones and/or beepers during your wedding ceremony.
- For your information, the **main aisle** in the Church measures 70 feet long.

MARRIAGE PREPARATIONS

The pastoral preparations for Christian marriage is defined as instructional and formational.

The “Instructional Preparation” of Marriage is accomplished in the following two ways:

PRE CANA is where married couples themselves share their thoughts on the essentials topics of marriage: communication, sexuality, family life, and the spiritual and practicalities of marriage. Voluntary discussion among the engaged couples attending usually follows.

Reservations are made through the Archdiocesan Pre Cana Office, Monday through Friday between 9:00AM and 2:00PM. Reservations should be made as early as possible.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER follows the same format as the Pre Cana, but it is done on a weekend away which allows for a greater involvement and relaxation.

- Details and scheduling of the previous two options are contained in a separate booklet which is enclosed in this mailing. The phone number to make reservations is also contained in this booklet.

The “Formational Preparation” of Marriage is done by a Priest or Deacon and it is usually accomplished in two or three sessions and includes the following:

PRE NUPTIAL INVESTIGATION is a series of questions answered by the couple while under oath. The questions deal with biographical background, freedom to marry, and intentions towards marriage. Personal aspects of the couple’s relationship may also be discussed.

FOCUS is a relationship profile test required by the Archdiocese. It is NOT a pass or fail test, it simply reveals the quality of a couple’s relationship, indicating strengths and weaknesses.

THE WEDDING LITURGY to be celebrated is also discussed and planned. For this special booklets are provided from which the prayers and readings that are to be done will be chosen. (The music is planned with the Music Director and will be discussed below along with the other special elements that you can use in your wedding ceremony.)

LET’S TALK ABOUT MUSIC

MUSIC for your ceremony or Nuptial Mass is to be planned with Mrs. Lesa Rossmann 201-887-6028 and Ms. Selena Piazza 201-768-5289, Co-Directors of music.

- Call Mrs. Lesa Rossmann at 201-887-6028 **to make an appointment** to go over the music for your wedding.
- Remember the music chosen for your wedding **MUST** be conducive to the “Sacrament of Matrimony” being celebrated in Church.
- You are asked to meet with Mrs. Rossmann no later than **THREE (3) months** before your wedding.
- Please be aware that **NO** outside organists or cantors are allowed at Our Lady of Victories RC Church.

WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED:

1. **RECENT BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES** – to obtain a recent baptismal certificate follow these simple instructions.
 - Contact the Church where you were baptized: tell them you are getting married and tell them you need a copy of your baptismal record. (A baptismal certificate that you may have at home is not acceptable – it must be a recently issued one from the Church of your baptism.
 - Obtain your baptismal record **SIX (6)** months before your wedding date and not before this time. For example, if you are getting married in April, you should obtain your baptismal record anytime after the previous October and not before.
 - When contacting the Church of your baptism ask them to make sure they fill out the back part of the certificate marked “Notations”.
 - For non-Catholic Christians, letters from your baptismal churches or certificates from home are acceptable. If this is not possible, affidavits are required.
2. **PRE CANA/ENGAGED ENCOUNTER CERTIFICATES** will be issued to you at the completion of these events. The certificates must be presented to your officiating Priest or Deacon.
3. **TWO WITNESSES FOR THE GROOM AND TWO WITNESSES FOR THE BRIDE** are required to testify to their respective freedom to marry. These witnesses may be family members, relatives, or friends. Arrangements should be made through your officiating Priest or Deacon.
4. **DECREE OF NULLITY OR CERTIFICATES OF DEATH** are required for those with previous marriages.
5. **MARRIAGE LICENSE** is obtained from the municipality in which the **BRIDE** resides. If both the groom and the bride are non-state residents, the marriage license is obtained from the Harrington Park Board of Health – 201-768-8790.
 - A license is good for **THIRTY (30) days** but takes **THREE (3) days** to process after the application is made. Apply anytime after a month before your wedding date but at least **THREE (3) business days** before the actual date (a whole week would actually be better).
 - **ONE (1) witness over EIGHTEEN (18) years of age** and who speaks or understands **English** is needed when you apply for your license.
 - A marriage license is **NOT** issued to anyone under **EIGHTEEN (18) years of age** without parental consent or representation from both parents (if living).
 - Birth Certificates **ARE NEEDED** to obtain the marriage license.
 - Blood Tests are **NO LONGER REQUIRED** in the State of New Jersey
 - Any questions about marriage licenses should be directed to the Harrington Park Board of Health (201) 768-8790, Marriage License Department,

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

- **FEES** do exist but they are very minimal, a mere two percent of what an average reception would cost today. Fees are required for the following:
 - Fee to Organist.
 - Fee to Soloist
 - Fee to Parish
 - (An additional fee is required of non-parishioners)
 - *\$200 Refundable Fee for clean-up.
 - *fee for clean-up if flower petals, etc. are thrown in church;
 - if flowers are not thrown, fee is refundable.
- An Offering to the Altar Servers of at least \$10 each is also recommended.
- It is preferred that fees be made in cash, but if a check is used, it should be one check for the full amount payable to Our Lady of Victories Church.
- **All fees are to be paid a month prior to the rehearsal.**
- **REHEARSALS** for your wedding ceremony are scheduled between you and your officiating Priest or Deacon. He will inform you of all the necessary documents which you will need to bring to the rehearsal as well as who should attend. Usually, however, **the liturgy planning sheet and the marriage license** are to be brought to the rehearsal; and, anyone who is in the bridal party as well as those who may be doing the readings comes to the rehearsal.
 - If a visiting celebrant is marrying you, the rehearsal time should be cleared far enough in advance through the rectory to avoid conflicts.
 - A separate letter concerning the details of the rehearsal will be sent to you as the time for the rehearsal date draws near.
 - With all due respect to all, this is a good time to mention the following: A wedding is a celebratory time: parties or dinners may be held on the rehearsal night, receptions usually follow the wedding ceremony. A Church is a sacred place; marriage is a holy sacrament being celebrated: “there is a time and a place for everything and everything in its place.” Anyone involved in a wedding, coming to the rehearsal and/or especially to the wedding ceremony impaired by alcohol or any other substance abuse places their involvement in the wedding in great jeopardy. Naturally, if this applies to either the groom or the bride, the **WHOLE WEDDING ITSELF** taking place in Our Lady of Victories’ Church may be placed in jeopardy.
- **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** should be celebrated by those of the Catholic Faith before entering the Sacrament of Matrimony. Marriage is a new beginning in your life and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation should help you in this new beginning. Additionally, maintaining an active relationship with the Lord, through prayer and through continual reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Penance, helps you to continually live out the Sacrament of Matrimony. Penance is especially recommended for those who may need to do so before receiving the Eucharist at a Nuptial Mass.
 - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is usually not celebrated at rehearsals as this Sacrament should be appropriately celebrated and not simply fit into the rehearsal time. Please check our parish bulletin or the bulletin of your local parish for the Confession schedule. Confessions are celebrated at Our Lady of Victories on Saturday mornings between 11:00AM and 12:00Noon.

IN CONCLUSION

- Time, as they say, is of the essence. We know that there is much excitement and many details which need to be attended to for a wedding, but, in consideration, please be on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding. Your tardiness can interfere with someone else's rehearsal time or wedding, with some other scheduled Church service or event, or with the personal schedule of your officiating Priest or Deacon.
- Again, please know that the Priests, Deacons, and staff of Our Lady of Victories are here to help you in this important time of preparation for marriage. Remember that an engagement period is not only a time of getting the details for your wedding day; it is also a time of reflection and discernment as you prepare yourselves for married life. Be open and honest with one another and ask the Lord to bless all your endeavors.

Church Address for Invitations: **Parish Address for Business:**
150 Harriot Avenue 81 Lynn Street
Harrington Park, NJ 07640 Harrington Park, NJ 07640

Parish Phone Number:
(201) 768-1706

DIRECTIONS TO OUR LADY OF VICTORIES' CHURCH

From the Garden State Parkway

Then take Parkway north and exit at exit 168 Washington Twp/Westwood/ HoHoKus. Turn right onto County Road 502 (Washington Ave). Stay on this road. It is exactly **5 miles to the Church**. Stay on Washington Ave. Go through railroad tracks and through business center of Westwood. Continue going straight. Washington Ave. becomes Westwood Ave.. Continue going straight into River Vale. At the Light at intersection of Westwood Ave. and River Vale Road **make a right on River Vale Road** and continue. River Vale Road becomes Harriot Ave. in Harrington Park. Continue on Harriot Avenue past the Harrington Park Elementary School. Go past the Church at the corner of Harriot Avenue and Lynn Street. Make the next right onto Carman Road. Make immediate right into OLV parking lot (corner of Carman Road and Harriot Avenue).

From New York Thruway

Take exit for Route 303 South. Continue on Rte. 303 South, which becomes Livingston Street in NJ. Continue on Livingston Street to Paris Avenue. Turn right at Brady's "Fox Hunt Inn" onto Paris Avenue. Go to the top of the hill and turn left onto Tappan Road (gas station on left). Follow Tappan Road into Harrington Park. Proceed through traffic light onto Harriot Avenue (Tappan Road becomes Harriot Avenue). Go over railroad tracks, go three blocks to Carman Road on left. Turn left onto Carman and make immediate right into parking lot.

New Jersey Turnpike

Be sure to stay to the far right on Turnpike once you have crossed over Rte. 46 so you can take local exit at Teaneck Road (local exit 70B). North on Teaneck Road through Bergenfield, Dumont, Haworth to Harrington Park – a sign will read *Entering Harrington Park*. (Note that Teaneck Road becomes Main Street, then Washington Avenue, then Schraalenburg Road.) At the next traffic light, turn left onto Harriot Avenue. Go over railroad tracks and go three blocks to Carman Road. Turn left onto Carman Road. OLV parking lot is immediate right.

George Washington Bridge Upper Level

Take the Palisade Interstate Parkway North to Exit 2. Come off ramp to traffic light which is 9W. Turn left onto 9W heading South. At 1st traffic light turn right onto Closter Dock Road. Follow Closter Dock Road to bottom of hill (gas station on right), proceed through traffic light, bear to the right. Go through blinking light (High Street) to the next traffic light, turn left. Go through center of town of Closter which will bring you to Harrington Avenue. Cross over Knickerbocker Road (Exxon on left); at the top of the small hill, bear right. At the next traffic light turn left onto Harriot Avenue. Go over tracks, go three blocks to Carman Road on left. Turn left onto Carman Road. OLV parking lot is immediate right.