

*MARRIAGE
PREPARATION*

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

LEONIA, NEW JERSEY



*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 St. John the Evangelist will help you in any way 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 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 Adamcik

A FEW BASIC FACTS

We welcome, of course, our parishioners and anyone else who wishes to be married at St. John the Evangelist.

- Either you or your fiancé should be a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist in order to have your wedding here.
- If neither you nor your fiancé are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist, 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 St. John the Evangelist 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 St. John the Evangelist is to do it.
- If applicable, ministers and rabbis are also welcomed 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 of St. John the Evangelist Church is 62 feet long.

MARRIAGE PREPARATIONS

The pastoral preparation 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 essential 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. 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 Dennis DeSantis, Director of Music.

Call Mr. Dennis DeSantis at 201-310-8055 **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 Mr. Dennis DeSantis no later than **THREE (3) months** before your wedding.
- Please be aware that **NO** outside organists or cantors are allowed at St. John the Evangelist 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 any time 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 AND GROOM** 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 Leonia Board of Health –201-592-5748.
 - A license is good for **THIRTY (30) days** but takes **THREE (3) days** to process after the application is made. Apply any time 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 Leonia Board of Health 201-592-5748, 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:	\$300 Parishioner \$500 Non-Parishioner
Organist:	\$200
Cantor/Singer:	\$200

- **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 St. John the Evangelist’ 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. Confession may also be scheduled by appointment.

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, Deacon, and staff of St. John the Evangelist 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:

470 Broad Avenue
Leonia, NJ 07605

Parish Address for Business:

235 Harrison Street
Leonia, NJ 07640

Parish Phone Number:

(201) 947-4545

 ***St. John the Evangelist Wedding Music Planner*** 

235 Harrison Street, Leonia, NJ

Parish Phone: 201-947-4545

Wedding Mass For: _____

(Bride and Groom)

(Date and Time)

Organist/Pianist: _____ Cantor: _____

WEDDING PARTY PROCESSIONAL(S)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel

Arioso

Johann Sebastian Bach

Air on the G String

Johann Sebastian Bach

Largo

George Frideric Handel

Air from Water Music

George Frideric Handel

BRIDE'S PROCESSIONAL

Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin

Richard Wagner

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Every Morning in Your Eyes

Rory Cooney

All I Ask of You

Weston Priory (BB#483)

May God Bless You

George Van Grieken (BB#671)

Where Love Is Found

Dan Schutte (BB#668)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

I Have Loved You

Michael Joncas (BB#603)

Loving and Forgiving

Scott Soper (BB#665)

When Love is Found

Brian Wren (BB#672)

Where There is Love

David Haas (BB#674)

EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

Mass of Creation

COMMUNION

You Are Mine

David Haas (BB#457)

One Love Released

B. Frenzel & K. Keil (BB#360)

Taste and See

James E. Moore, Jr. (BB#335)

Gift of Finest Wheat

O. Westendorf & R. Kreutz (BB#324)

The Supper of the Lord

Laurence Rosania (BB#354)

Panis Angelicus

Cesar Franck

PRESENTATION TO MARY

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Ave Maria

Bach-Gounod

RECESSIONAL

Wedding March from Midsummer

Felix Mendelssohn

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven

Trumpet Voluntary in D

Jeremiah Clark

Rondeau

Jean-Joseph Mouret

Trumpet Tune

Jenry Purcell

Hornpipe from Water Music

George Frideric Handel

Directions to St. John the Evangelist R.C. Church, Leonia, NJ

From George Washington Bridge

Follow signs for Routes 1-9/46 and take Route 46 to first exit, Main Street, Fort Lee, Leonia (just past Sunoco Station). Go to stop sign and make a right onto Fort Lee Road. Continue to the second traffic light (about ½ mile) and make a right onto Broad Avenue. St. John Church is 1 block past the first light (Hillside Avenue) on the left side of Broad Avenue.

From New Jersey Turnpike (Northbound)

Take exit 18W. Go straight through toll plaza and follow signs for I-95 North, George Washington Bridge. Stay in local lanes to exit 70. After exiting follow signs for Leonia/exit 70A. This will take you onto Fort Lee Road. Go to the 4th traffic light and make a left onto Broad Avenue. St. John Church is 1 block past the first light (Hillside Avenue) on the left side of Broad Avenue.

From Palisades Parkway (Southbound)

Take Palisades Parkway South. Got off at exit 2 (Palisades Avenue) and turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Continue straight down the hill until the 4th traffic light. At this light (Dana Place) make a left. Follow Dana Place until it become Broad Avenue. You will pass under Route 4 overpass and I-80 overpass where you will enter Leonia. Continue straight up a slight hill five blocks and St. John Church is on the corner of Harrison Street and Broad Avenue. Make a right onto Harrison to reach the parking lot which will be on your left.

From Route 4 (Eastbound)

Take the Grand Avenue Leonia exit and make a right onto Grand Avenue and continue 1 block past the second traffic light and make a left onto Harrison Street. The parking lot of the church is 3 blocks up just past the corner of Kingsley and Harrison Street.

From Route 80 (Eastbound)

When I-80 East splits into Express or Local, take the LOCAL ROUTE (stay to the right). Continue following signs for George Washington Bridge, I-80 East turns into I-95 North. Remain on I-80 East/I-95 North until exit 71 (about 25 miles from I-287. Please pass exit 70, which is also an exit for Leonia). At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left onto Broad Avenue. St. John Church is about 5 blocks on the right.

Hotels Close to Church:

Crowne Plaza Englewood

Address: 401 S. Van Brunt Street, Englewood, NJ 07631

Phone: (201) 871-2020

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Fort Lee - George Washington Bridge

Address: 2117 Route 4 East, Fort Lee, NJ 07024-3209

1 (855) 605-0318

Hampton Inn & Suites Teaneck Glenpointe

Address: One Glenwood Avenue, Suite B, Teaneck, NJ 07666

Phone: (201) 883-9777

Hilton Garden Inn Ridgefield Park

Address: 70 Challenger Rd, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

Phone: (201) 641-2024

Holiday Inn GW Bridge-Fort Lee

Address: 2339 Route 4 East, Fort Lee, NJ 07024-3211

Phone: (877) 859-5095

Marriott at Glenpointe

Address: 100 Frank W Burr Blvd, Teaneck, NJ 07666

Phone: (201) 836-0600