

# St. Pius V Church

Staffed by the Dominican Friars  
of the Eastern Province of St. Joseph  
55 Elmhurst Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908  
Telephone: (401) 751-4871  
Fax (401) 273-1089

**“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh.’ What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Mark 10:7-9)**

## **Guidelines for Marriage Preparation and Ceremonies**

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! May the Lord bless and strengthen husband and wife in love, generosity and fidelity! The following policies have been established in order to respect the parish schedule, canonical requirements for marriage and the integrity of the faith life of the St. Pius V community.

### **1. Preparation Requirements:**

- a. Meet with a priest of the parish to establish your intention to marry, to review these guidelines and, if possible, to book a date and time for the wedding and wedding rehearsal. *No dates are reserved over the phone.* Also, if either of the couple has had a prior marriage/divorce of any kind, a date can be booked only if a declaration of nullity and letter of freedom to marry have been granted by the Diocese.
- b. Obtain a *current* sacramental record. Have the relevant parish mail baptismal, confirmation and first holy communion certificates to St. Pius V, or if you have copies please bring them to the parish. If all the sacraments were received at the same parish, a baptismal certificate with notation of confirmation and first holy communion will normally suffice.
  - i. For non-Catholic Christians, a copy of a baptismal certificate should be sent to St Pius V. For non-Christians, a copy of a birth certificate.
  - ii. For non-Catholics, two witnesses who can testify that the future spouse has never been married before should arrange to meet with the priest (this takes approximately 10 minutes!).
  - iii. Meet with the priest for the prenuptial investigation (done separately with each future spouse).
- c. Discuss with the priest registration for a diocesan marriage preparation program through the Office for Marriage and Family Life. A booklet outlining the program, complete with dates and phone numbers, will be provided by St. Pius V.

- d. Meet with the priest to discuss the plan of marriage formation. Normally the couple will meet at St. Pius with a priest for a period of several months before the wedding ceremony. Note that St. Pius uses the FOCCUS assessment as a guide for these discussions. FOCCUS offers an online tool designed to identify various areas of the relationship that the couple may want to discuss in greater detail while they prepare for marriage.
- e. Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is highly recommended that the couple go to confession in the week before their wedding so as to make their vows with a clear conscience in grace. If it has been some time since the couple has celebrated this Sacrament, it's all the more important to take advantage of it now. Confessions are offered at St. Pius on Thursday evenings from 7-745PM and on Saturdays from 3:30 – 4:15PM.

## **2. Wedding Day and Time:**

- a. **Saturdays** are the usual choice. If the couple is planning an afternoon wedding, sometime between 1-2PM is preferable. In view of our parish liturgical schedule, we cannot schedule afternoon weddings after 2PM. We can however, offer times in the morning and possibly an evening time beginning at 6PM.
- b. **Weekdays and Sundays** are also possible where not disruptive to the normal parish liturgical schedule. Please note, however, that all celebrations of the Eucharist on Sunday must use the readings for that Sunday and the couple will not be able to choose the readings.

## **3. Policies Regarding the Ceremony:**

- a. **Music:** All music and guest musicians for the wedding must be prepared by the organist, David Martinez. David may be reached by telephone at (401) 831-3543 or (401) 749-2091 (*cell*), or by email at [dmartinez@lasalle-academy.org](mailto:dmartinez@lasalle-academy.org). David will meet with you as necessary to assist you in the planning of the music.
- b. **Decorations:** Flowers and other environmental enhancements for the church are recommended, but any decorations should accord with the practice of the church and its own environmental policies.
- c. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed on church property. For instance, drinking champagne outside after the wedding is forbidden.
- d. **Favors:** Please refrain from throwing confetti, birdseed or rice in the vestibule or on our sidewalk.

## **4. Fees:**

- a. The offering for the church is \$300 (parishioner) or \$500 (non-parishioner); the organist's stipend is \$150, and the cantor's stipend is \$125. You are welcome to provide your own musicians, but you will still be obligated to pay the organist at St. Pius V.
- b. The priest can arrange for two altar servers for the wedding. It is customary to thank them with a small gift (\$10-\$20). If you prefer no altar servers, let the priest know.