St. Aedan's Church

800 Bergen Avenue • Jersey City, New Jersey 07306 Phone: (201) 433-6800 • Fax: (201) 433-1222

Parish Policy on Weddings

The Sacrament of Marriage

Congratulations! You have reached a point in your lives where you wish to commit yoursleves to each other before God in the sacrament of marriage. The love that you as a couple have come to realize and share,will now be celebrated with Famil and friends in a church that support and encouge you in this sacrement.We rejoice with you and want your wedding day to be truly special – the foundation of your life together.May the Lord bess you along the path to your marriage.

How to begin?
The marriage preparation process begin with a first call to the parish inquiring about marriage in the church and filling out the Wedding Inquiry from the website. https://www.staedans.org/. This should be at **least one year in advance of your wedding**.At least one person must be Catholic and free to marry in the Catholic Church.

When do we set the date?
During your initial conversation, provided there ae no special circumstances that come to light, a date and time of the wedding will be arranged. **It is advised to reserve the church first and then the venue.** Remember that you cannot be married until all the required paperwork is completed.

***The Officiating Priest or Minister*:**

The officiating priest is responsible for the paperwork for your wedding. If you intend to request a priest other than one from Saint Aedan's Church, you must secure prior approval from the pastor. If the officiating priest or deacon is not from Saint Aedan's Church, all the paperwork for your wedding must be completed and returned to the parish office at least two (2) weeks prior to your wedding date. The parish office is located at 39 Tuers Ave, Jersey City, New Jersey, 07306

***Pre-Marital Formation Sessions*:**

The engaged couple will have at least two (2) or more meetings, as necessary, with the Priest from Saint Aedan's Church who will witness your marriage or with the priest who is preparing you for marriage. The pre-nuptial investigation will be conducted during the first of these meetings.

***Pre-Marital Information Sessions*:**

The pre-marital instructions required by Archdiocesan policy are fulfilled through attendance at God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage, Natural Family Planning, and Pre-Cana sessions. Once you have committed to being prepared/married at Saint Aedan's Church, we will provide you with the necessary information to sign up for Pre-Cana. You should register and complete Pre-Cana as early as possible since the pace of your lives will begin to get more hectic as the date of your wedding approaches.

***Documents Required by Church Law*:**

1. A new updated copy of your Baptismal certificate must be obtained from your Church of Baptism (not dated more than six months prior to your wedding date and not a photocopy) for each Catholic party. **The Baptismal certificate must have a raised seal.** The original or a new copy is acceptable for a non-Catholic party.

2. A Certificate of Attendance at the instructional sessions which is issued after you attend Natural Family Planning, Pre-Cana Session and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage and FOCCUS Inventory.

3. There may be other paperwork needed depending on any special situations pertaining to your marriage. The wedding coordinator handling your paperwork will notify you of this during the initial meeting.

***The Marriage License*:**

The marriage license is usually applied for in the municipality where the bride resides. In a case where the couple resides out-of-state, the marriage license must be obtained in the City of Jersey City. Wherever it is applied for, it should be done at least **two weeks** before the scheduled wedding, since it will not be issued until after seventy-two (72) hours. Once granted, it is valid for thirty (30) days, and it will be filed by the priest at the office of the Registrar of the City of Jersey City. ***NOTE: THE LICENSE MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE REHEARSAL All 4 copies with the envelope.***

***Witnesses*:**

There are two types of witnesses:

A. For the Ceremony: The Best Man and the Maid (Matron) of Honor are the legal and canonical witnesses of your marriage.

B. For Your Freedom to Marry: If the priest does not know you personally, you will be required to provide witnesses who can testify to your freedom to marry. Two witnesses for each party are required.

***The Wedding Liturgy*:**

There are two (2) wedding liturgies to choose from:

A. **The Nuptial Mass** (Highly recommended for marriages of two active Catholics).
B. **The WEDDING CEREMONY** (without Mass). (For Marriages involving a non- Catholic). Either of the wedding liturgies are permissible.

While certain elements of either liturgy are strictly necessary, there is great flexibility allowed in the planning of your wedding. You will be given a simple booklet which is designed to help you to prepare for your wedding readings. The Wedding Coordinator can guide you in this process.
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***Dates and Times*:**

- Fridays: 3:00 or 4:00 p.m.
- Saturdays: No later than 3:00 P.M.
- Other days: Depending on availability

Please realize that in the case of Nuptial Masses there are some days where liturgical law would prohibit the celebration of the Nuptial Mass. Most likely you would not think of marrying on these days anyway (Christmas, Easter, e.g.). **There are no weddings to be scheduled during the Season of Lent.**

Music

As soon as you have locked in a date and time for your wedding with the parish office, please email Meredith Augustin, our musicians for Weddings at St. Aedan's Church. Her email is experiencemeredithnow@gmail.com she will start the process of planning the music for your Nuptial Mass or Wedding Ceremony, which includes selecting appropriate songs and instrumental pieces, discussing fees and payment timelines **(note music fees are separate from church fees**), and answering any questions you have about the music for your special day.
It is ideal for the conversation on wedding music to begin **at least four months before the wedding date**, so please make sure to email Meredith as soon as your wedding date and time are set with the church. No other musicians or singer can provide music unless discussed with our music coordinator or with the Wedding Coordinator of the church.

Flowers:

Your florist is welcome to call and speak to the parish wedding coordinator for guidelines regarding floral pieces. Be mindful of how the church may already be decorated, i.e. (Easter, Christmas, Advent, Pentecost, etc.). **During the penitential seasons (Advent and Lent) No flowers may be left at the church. If you have flowers, they will have to be removed after the wedding ceremony. The flower girl is not allowed to drop real or silk petals.**

FYI- Runners are not to be used in the church as one can catch heels as they walk down the aisle. No flower petals may be thrown in church.

***Photographer*:**

The couple will naturally make their own arrangements with a photographer of their own choice. In the process of photographing your wedding it is most important that the **dignity** of the Sacrament of Matrimony be maintained. Therefore, the following points should be made known to your photographer.

- No one is allowed in the sanctuary or near the altar for the purpose of taking pictures.

- No bright lights are needed in the church for the purpose of video photography: the church lighting is sufficient.

- Before the ceremony begins, the photographer should consult with the priest who will officiate the ceremony. The Parish Wedding Consultant will be available to answer any questions.

Other Items:

Rice throwing, etc.: For safety reasons and tidiness in and around the church is **not** allowed. (We ask the couple to discourage their guests from throwing rice, confetti, birdseed, etc.). There are many ways of expressing joy at your celebration other than throwing rice, such as bubbles, ringing bells.

Offering to the Church

- For ***active, registered parishioners (**), who have been registered (and active) for at least six (6) months prior to your first meeting with the Priest,*** the Church offering is **$1,000.00.**

If neither the bride nor the groom is registered members with Saint Aedan's Parish or registered with the parish after the initial meeting with the Priest, the Church offering is **$1,200.00**. Payment must be made at the time of the rehearsal. Cash or Checks are acceptable. Please make the check payable to **Saint Aedan's Church.**

(**) An active, registered parishioner is someone who regularly attends Mass at Saint Aedan's Church and supports the parish through the weekly offering using the envelope and/or E-Giving program. This is the only way to determine your active parishioner status.

- The Music Director's fee is separate from the church fee and will be discussed with the music director for weddings
- **If our Priest is preparing you, but you are being married in another Church, the offering to the Church is $300.00**. to process all the paperwork.
- **To have your wedding in the Chapel of the Parish Center, the fee is $300**.00 (The Chapel holds 40 or less people)

Request for Permission to be Married in A Catholic Church other than Saint Aedan

You may request permission from our Pastor to be married at a Catholic Church other than Saint Aedan's Church by contacting the wedding coordinator at cgalasso@staedans.org

Please note that Saint Aedan's will only be able to send letters of permission on behalf of those who are registered (for at least 6 months) and known to the parish, actively participate in its life, including regular attendance at mass and support of Saint Aedan's. Anonymous parishioners and donors cannot be verified.

Preparation to be Married in Another Church

If you would like to be prepared by our Priest for your wedding at another Church, please contact the Parish Office by filling out the wedding inquiry found on the website no less than twelve (12) months before your wedding date. At your initial meeting with the Priest, please bring along any information from the Church regarding their specific requirements.

The fee for preparation to be married at another Church is $300.00, which must be paid at your first meeting with the Priest.

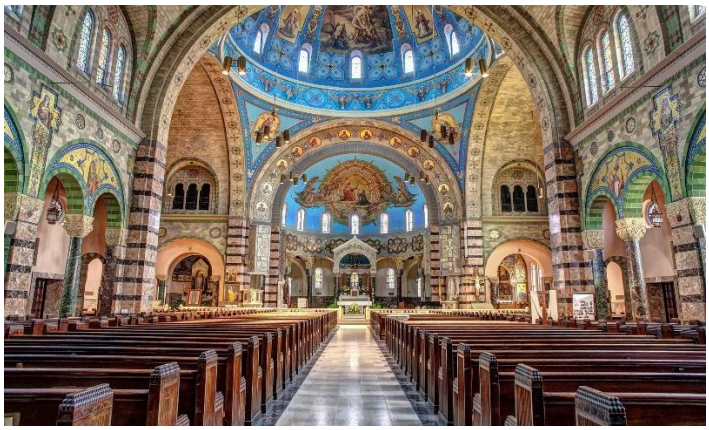
Wedding Rehearsal

An important part of the preparation for the wedding celebration is the wedding rehearsal. The rehearsal is scheduled with the priest or wedding coordinator prior to the wedding. It is essential that all members of the wedding party be present for this rehearsal as well as any individual whom you have selected to proclaim the scripture readings during your wedding. Our of respect for the priest, as well any other rehearsal that may be planned, or other use of the church, please make sure that your entire wedding party arrives on time.

Information for Pre Cana and God's plan may be found at:

WWW.RCAN.ORG.
Go to menu, Pastoral office – scroll down to office of family pastoral ministry (on the right side)- go to Marriage Prep, click on that, sign up for classes. . Directions should be available when you sign in for Pre Cana.
You will have to give the two certificates to the priest or wedding coordinator for the file.

You will also have to complete The FOCCUS Inventory. The FOCCUS INVENTORY will be set up for you by **Carmel Galasso, Wedding Coordinator at St. Aedan's Church -cgalasso@staedans.org. When you complete the inventory, a certificate will be given to you.**



The Parish Priest and the wedding coordinator will work with you to plan all aspects of your wedding ceremony.

"Praying that God guides your footsteps as you begin this beautiful journey together."
Saint Aedan's Parish