

Saint Edward The Confessor Roman Catholic Church

**Readings, Prayers, Music Selections,
Policies and Procedures
❧ For Weddings ❧**



**Church of Saint Edward the Confessor
21 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT. 06812
(203)746-2200**

The Church recognizes that each of you is a unique individual and, together, thus form a unique couple. Consequently, it hopes you will actively plan and participate in a nuptial ceremony which will be distinctly your own, while still following a pattern standard for all Catholic weddings.

The church provides a rich resource of Scripture readings, vows, blessings and music from which you can select those that personally seem most appropriate and attractive to you. They are arranged according to the order of the ceremony.

You may employ other biblical passages or musical selections not in this booklet as long as they are approved.

The priest who will be presiding at your wedding will most certainly be pleased to assist with further details.

The first part of this booklet contains all of the scripture readings and sacred music that you will be choosing for your wedding ceremony.

You will also find in this booklet all of our wedding policies, procedures and guidelines. You'll want to be sure to read this booklet very thoroughly.

This booklet contains general information and guidelines on the wedding day schedule, church facilities, parking, the wedding rehearsal, the wedding liturgy, wedding programs.

Also included are our parish policies and procedures with regard to music, photography and videotaping, flowers and decorations, safety issues, wedding fees and necessary documentation. Church and civil requirements are outlined as well.

You probably already have a lot of ideas about the kind of wedding ceremony you would like to have. One of the first things to consider is whether you will have a full mass (with communion) or a liturgy of the word (without communion). The following pages have outlines for the two wedding services which you might find helpful when making your choices.

The priest will be able to assist you in creating the perfect wedding for you.

Wedding Ceremony With A Mass

The Wedding Procession

Seating of the Parents *May have sung music or instrumental*
Bridesmaids Processional *Processional Music*
Bride *Processional Music*

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading:

Read By:

Responsorial Psalm

Sung/Read By:

New Testament Reading

Read By:

Gospel

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows:

Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Presentation of Bride and Groom
Lighting of Unity Candle (optional)

Prayer Of The Faithful:

Read By:

Liturgy Of The Eucharist

Offertory Procession

The Bread and Wine are brought to the celebrant by the gift bearers

Gift Bearers

Consecration of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer

The Nuptial Blessing:

Sign of Peace

Communion

Meditation Song after communion (optional)

Offering of Flowers to Mary (optional)

Final Blessing

Recessional *Recessional Music*

WEDDING WITHOUT A MASS

Seating of the Parents *May have Sung or Instrumental Music*
Bridesmaids Processional *Processional Music*
Bride's Processional *Processional Music*

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading:

Read By:

Responsorial Psalm:

Sung/Read by:

New Testament Reading:

Read By:

Gospel

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows:

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Lighting of Unity Candle (optional)

Prayers and Blessings - General Intercessions

Prayer Of The Faithful:

Read By:

The Nuptial Blessing:

Concluding Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Flowers To Mary (optional)

Final Blessing

Recessional: *Recessional Music*

MUSIC DIRECTOR / ORGANIST

DAN KEAN

(203) 746-2200 ext. 19

e-mail: dkean@saintedwardchurch.org

Organist Fee - \$200.00

The music director will assist you in planning the music for your ceremony. This role has assigned in order to ensure good liturgy at your wedding.

The Music Director is responsible for helping you choose suitable musical selections and placing them at appropriate places within the wedding liturgy. In addition, the music director serves as organist and / or pianist, and is available as accompanist for any guest soloists or instrumentalists.

The music director is responsible for confirming the suitability of guest musicians, as well as the musical selections chosen.

If the music director is unable to be present at your wedding, it is his responsibility to obtain a suitable substitute.

CANTOR / SOLOIST

GLORIA E. HUDSON

email: ghudson@saintedwardchurch.org

Cantor Fee - \$150.00

The role of cantor is to sing the psalm and lead the community in sung prayer.

It is the custom at Saint Edward's Church to have a cantor at every service.

The cantor is also available as vocal soloist in addition to being the cantor at your wedding.

Since the focal point of Christian marriage is God and the sharing of His Divine love through this sacrament, music for the wedding ceremony should express the role of God in married life.

Sacred songs appropriate for weddings exist in a variety of styles, ranging from classical compositions to folk songs and spirituals.

Texts expressing the love of God for His people and their love for Him will make the wedding liturgy a true expression of that faith upon which all Christian marriage is founded.

The suggested organ and vocal selections on the following pages are designed to help you in making musical choices.

Many of the most commonly used titles are included. However, the list is not exclusive, and should serve only as a guide.

There is an abundance of sacred music suitable for the wedding ceremony.

The following selections for voice and organ are among those frequently chosen for the Wedding Ceremony.

SUGGESTED PROCESSIONALS

Trumpet Voluntary / Clark

Allegro Moderato (from Water Music) / Handel

Bridal Chorus (from "Lohengrin") / Wagner

Trumpet Tune / Purcell

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring / Bach

Canon in D / Pachelbel

SUGGESTED RECESSIONALS

Trumpet Tune / Purcell

Ode to Joy / Beethoven

Wedding March (from "A Midsummer's Night Dream") / Mendelssohn

Allegro Maestoso (from Water Music) / Handel

SUGGESTED SOLOS

Ave Maria / Schubert

With This Ring / Copeland

Gift of Love / American Folk Tune

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring / Bach

Laudate Dominum / Mozart

Wedding Song / Stookey

I, Myself Am The Bread of Life / Kean

Panis Angelicus / Franck

Ave Maria / Gounod

Bist Du Bei Mir / Bach

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Either one or two readings plus a responsorial psalm may be chosen. These may be read by members of the wedding party or by someone in the congregation.

The first reading is chosen from the Old Testament and the second reading is from the New Testament.

The Responsorial Psalm is generally sung but it may be read.

The Prayers of the Faithful are usually done by the celebrant but can also be done by a member of the wedding party or congregation.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS:

1. Male and Female He Created Them Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a
2. The Two Become One Genesis 2: 18-24
3. Allow Us To Live Together To A Happy Old Age Tobit 8:4b-8
4. A Woman To Be Praised Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20, 30-31
5. Stern As Death Is Love Song of Songs 2:8-10,14,16a,8:6-7a

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS:

1. Bless The Lord Psalm 34
2. The Lord Is Kind Psalm 103
3. Blessed Are Those Who Fear The Lord Psalm 128
4. The Lord Is Compassionate Psalm 145
5. Praise The Lord Psalm 148

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS:

1. Offer Yourselves As Holy And Pleasing To God Romans 12:1-13
2. If I Do Not Have Love, I Gain Nothing 1 Corinthians 12:31
3. This Is A Great Mystery Ephesians 5: 2-32
4. Let Marriage Be Held In Honor Hebrews 13:1-6
5. God Is Love 1 John 4: 7-12

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Genesis 1:26-28,31a

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth".

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. The Word of the Lord

2. Genesis 2: 18-24

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone.

I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;

whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep,

he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife,

and the two of them become one body.

The Word of the Lord.

3. Tobit 8:4b-8

A Reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and grant us deliverance.”
Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs.
They began with these words: “Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name
forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.
You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two
the human race descended.
You said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.”
Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble
purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy
old age.” They said together, “Amen, amen.” The Word of the Lord.

4. Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.
The Word of the Lord.

5. Song of Songs 2:8-10,14,16a,8:6-7a

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover—here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me, “Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!
“O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff,
Let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely.”
My lover belongs to me and I to him.
He says to me: “Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.”
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

1. Psalm 34 - Bless The Lord

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the Lord is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

2. Psalm 103 - The Lord Is Kind

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity

toward those who fear him,

And his justice towards children's children among those who keep his covenant.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

3. Psalm 128 - Blessed Are Those Who Fear The Lord

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways!

For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;

blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home;

Your children like olive plants around your table.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion:

may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

4. Psalm 145 - The Lord Is Compassionate

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones bless you.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you and you give them their food in due season.

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

5. Psalm 148 - Praise The Lord

R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights;

Praise him, all you his angels, praise him, all you his hosts.

R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.

You mountains and all you hills, you fruit trees and all you cedars;

You wild beasts and all tame animals, you creeping things and winged fowl.

R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Let the kings of the earth and all peoples, the princes and all the judges of the earth,

Young men too, and maidens, old men and boys,

Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.

His majesty is above earth and heaven, and he has lifted his horn above the people.

R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Romans 12:1,2, 9-13

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

The Word of The Lord

2. 1Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

3. Ephesians 5: 2a,25-32

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his Body.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,

and the wife should respect her husband. The Word of the Lord.

4. Hebrews 13:1-4a,5-6b

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters: Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.

Thus we may say with confidence: The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

The Word of the Lord.

5. 1 John 4: 7-12

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. The Word of the Lord.

CONSENT/ RECITATION OF VOWS

The wedding couple is asked to give their consent by taking the vows of marriage.

This may be done by repeating the words of consent after the celebrant

or by responding "I do" to the question put forth by the celebrant.

You may choose which form of consent you wish to take - **Form A** or **Form B**

Form A:

I, N., take you, N., to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Or if the question form is preferred:

N., do you take N., to be your wife/husband?

Do you promise to be true to her/him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her/him and honor her/him all the days of your life? Bride/Groom: I do.

Form B:

I, N. take you N., for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

Bride/ Groom: I do

Or if question form is requested:

Do you, N. take N. for your lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part? Bride/Groom: I do

NUPTIAL BLESSING

My dear friends, let us ask God for his continued blessings upon **N and N**.

Holy Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for married life, we humbly pray to you for this woman who today is united with her husband in this sacrament of marriage.

May your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love.

Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy and turn to you in their sorrows.

May they be glad that you help them in their work and know that you are with them in their need. May they pray to you in the community of the Church, and be your witnesses in the world. May they reach old age in the company of their friends, and come at last to the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Form A:

1. For the leaders of church and state for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households...that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us - let us pray to the Lord.

2. For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple **N. and N.**, married today, for those who will marry tomorrow...that they may savor the joy of being together, warm love, and children, a long life, wine, and friends, and a new day, every day - let us pray to the Lord.

3. For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love - let us pray to the Lord.

4. For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us - let us pray to the Lord.

5. For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires - let us pray to the Lord.

Form B:

1. For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord.

2. For our president and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord.

3. For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, let us pray to the Lord.

4. For N. and N., now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until a ripe old age, let us pray to the Lord.

5. For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, let us pray to the Lord.

6. For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of Jonathan and Lisa and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

LEGAL PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

In the State of Connecticut you may obtain your marriage license from the town clerk where the marriage will occur or from the town clerk in the Connecticut town where one of the parties to be married resides.

Blood tests are no longer needed for the application for a Marriage License.

The couple should plan to apply for their license in an adequate time before the wedding.

The marriage license is good for 65 days.

When you have received the license, bring it to the Parish Office.

Records which must be obtained for the Church:

Each Catholic must have a recently issued Baptismal Certificate (no more than six months old).

If one of you is Protestant, a Baptismal Certificate is desired if possible.

Each Catholic must also have a certificate of First Communion and Confirmation if reception of these sacraments is not noted on the Baptismal Certificate.

How to obtain the church certificates:

If any of these sacraments were received at Saint Edward, we have your records on file therefore copies of these certificates are not needed.

If any of these sacraments were received elsewhere, contact the church of Baptism first.

Tell them you are getting married and give them your date of birth.

When you have received the certificate, check the back of it to see if the dates of the other sacraments are recorded.

If not, contact the churches at which you received those sacraments for a certificate.

If you are not sure how to contact a church, the office at Saint Edward can give you the addresses and phone numbers for churches in the United States.

If the Catholic person has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, he/she is strongly urged to do so. The priest or deacon will be happy to give you details about instruction for Confirmation.

If neither person lives in Saint Edward the Confessor Parish, a letter of permission must be obtained from each person's pastor.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE:

As we receive each sacrament, the Church asks us to spend some time in preparation contemplating the marvelous and loving activity of God in our lives. The preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is called *Pre-Cana*.

We have our own Pre-Cana Program. The engaged couple is mentored by a married couple from our Parish in conjunction with the priest or deacon who will officiate at the wedding.

This Pre-Cana program has five parts:

1. Initial Meeting with a priest or deacon of Saint Edward Parish.
2. Initial Introductory meeting with Mentor Couple
3. Complete online *Prepare/Enrich* Survey.
4. Three additional meetings with the mentor couple in their home.
5. A final meeting with the priest or deacon.

THE LITURGY OF MARRIAGE:

It is important to know that certain days of the year cannot be reserved for weddings. An example November 2nd (All Souls Day) is a Holy Day of Obligation and therefore, a wedding mass cannot be celebrated. The parish priest can advise you of these dates.

Weddings are normally scheduled on Saturday at 10:30 AM or 11:00 AM or 2:00 or 2:30 on Saturday afternoon. Friday evenings are also available for weddings.

Once you have arranged dates and times for the wedding and rehearsal, there are a number of things to be done in preparation for the Marriage Liturgy:

The priest or deacon who is to officiate at the ceremony will discuss the details of the liturgy with you.

The rite is a reflection of our faith, which you want to share with those who attend.

Please note, however, that the State of Connecticut requires the use of one of the approved legal forms of the vows.

Visiting clergy are welcome at Saint Edward. Visiting clergy must be present at the rehearsal.

If you know any boys or girls who would like to be altar servers at your wedding, they are welcome. If they are from another parish, they should be at the rehearsal. **You should inform the priest at least two weeks prior to the wedding if you are arranging for the altar servers, OR if you wish, the parish will provide altar servers.**

It is suggested that the couple give each server provided by the church a gift of \$10.

You are encouraged to ask family and friends to read from the Scripture and pray the General Intercessions at your wedding. They should be at the rehearsal to practice the readings.

If you are celebrating the Nuptial Mass, you may ask friends or family to participate as gift bearers who present the gifts of bread and wine to the celebrant during the Offertory of the Mass.

Fees:

The Diocese of Bridgeport requires that each couple being married go through a Pre-Cana program. Here at Saint Edward's we offer our own personalized program in which each couple is assigned a mentor couple. There are four meetings that are held at the mentor couple's home.

Discussion at the second meeting focuses on the results of a personalized Prepare Enrich survey that the couple is required to take. This survey can be taken online.

When you come in to register for Pre-Cana, there is a fee of \$125 payable to Saint Edward's Family Life.

If you choose to use the Diocesan Pre-Cana program it is \$150 and you may register for that program on their website at www.bridgeportdiocese.com.

A certificate of completion must be brought to Saint Edward's for our records.

A \$300 church fee is required two weeks prior to the wedding date made payable to Saint Edward's Church.

All Catholics in the wedding party are urged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at some point before the wedding day. Confessions at Saint Edward's are Saturday afternoon from 3:45 to 4:15 or by appointment. Please call the Parish Office and ask to speak to the priest who is helping prepare for your wedding to make an appointment. If you wish to have confession before or after the rehearsal, please let the priest know so that he can plan for this.

Some couples have printed programs for their wedding. The program design and theme should be religious in nature in keeping with the dignity of the Sacrament.

If you plan to have a program, please let the priest or deacon review the rough draft with you before you finalize it so that unnecessary complications can be avoided.

We have a Bride's room immediately off of the gathering space where the bride and her attendants may wait and refresh themselves before the ceremony.

Parents of the groom, father of the bride, etc. may wait in our cry room.

The groomsmen may stay either in the gathering space or in the chapel with the groom.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

The rehearsal for Saturday weddings will be held on Friday evening and Thursday evening for Friday weddings.

Rehearsals are generally 30 minutes in duration.

The rehearsal is an important step in the preparation for a wedding. It allows members of the immediate wedding party to become familiar with the environment of our church building and with the public roles they will assume as part of the liturgy. The parish priest will conduct the rehearsal and will give a brief overview of the liturgy to help all concerned understand the prayerful nature of the celebration. Only those directly involved in the ceremony should be invited to the actual rehearsal in church — others should be directed to meet you at the rehearsal dinner site.

Those who should be present at your rehearsal in church include the bride and groom, both sets of parents, step parents, etc., grandparents (optional), bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, readers, Eucharistic ministers, and gift bearers. At the rehearsal a responsible adult must accompany any children who are in the wedding party. We ask that you require all these members of your wedding party to be present for the rehearsal, and kindly remind them they **MUST ARRIVE ON TIME**.

Rehearsals that begin late risk losing adequate rehearsal time.

The rehearsal itself is not the time for discussion and decision-making.

Please also be aware that musicians are not present for the wedding rehearsal.

GUIDELINES FOR LIMOUSINE DRIVERS:

Make sure that your limo driver has directions to the church and knows how long it will take to get here. Instruct your limo driver to park the limo away from the front door of the church after he has dropped off the wedding party returning there only after the service is concluded.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS:

A maximum of 15 minutes will be allotted for pictures before and after the ceremony.

Photographers/video personnel and their equipment are to be as unobtrusive as possible.

They should not interfere with any aspect of the procession, liturgy, or recessional.

Posing during the liturgy, waving to the couple or distracting from the ceremony is not allowed.

Flash photography or video lighting is not permitted during the liturgy.

Photographers/video personnel are not permitted in the Sanctuary (on the wood floor)

Video equipment cannot be obtrusive and must remain stationary.

Photographers and equipment in the altar area must be confined to the rug area only.

Microphones and/or electric wiring cannot be taped across the aisles.

Sanctuary microphones are not to be disconnected or tampered with in any way.

Photo and video lighting racks are not permitted during the ceremony.

All equipment and containers are to be kept on the floor and well out of the way of traffic patterns. Nothing should be placed in or on the pews.

Standing on any pews for picture taking or posing is forbidden.
The altar is a sacred place; nothing should be placed upon it, nor should it be used as a prop.

Altar candles and church decorations may not be moved or removed.

Because of the sacredness and formality of the wedding, proper attire is required of all personnel.

No food or beverage is to be brought into the church. Alcoholic beverages (champagne) are not permitted on church grounds.

All voices must be kept down during photographic sessions. Shouting is inappropriate.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The set up time allowed is 30 minutes prior to the ceremony unless there is another service taking place. If you are in doubt please contact the parish office for time.

Altar flowers are not required, but if they are used, they must be delivered and in place at least 25 minutes prior to the wedding liturgy.

Altar flowers may not be placed on the altar or in front of the altar. They may be placed on either or both sides of the altar.

When flower stands are used, they must be placed only on the sides of the altar to preserve necessary sight lines between priest, cantor, lectors and congregation.

The florist must provide any stands or pedestals used.

Pew-end Decorations may be used. The church has 24 pews total (12 on each side)
Pew decorations may not be attached by pinning, gluing, nailing, tacking, taping or stapling.
Elastic bands, plastic pew clips or ribbons must be used instead.
All pew end decorations must be removed after the ceremony.

Sanctuary appointments such as the ambo (pulpit), presider's chair, lectern, candle sticks, banners, altar cloths, advent wreaths, the paschal candle and any art or liturgical environment *may not be altered or removed under any circumstances.*

Keep in mind that different colors are used in the church during the varying liturgical seasons throughout the year.

This is a general calendar: Advent — dark violet. Christmas Season — white.
Winter Ordinary Time — green. Lent — purple. Easter Season — white.
Pentecost Weekend — red. Summer Ordinary Time — green.
Expect to find some of these colors present in the church or in the sanctuary.
These items may not be removed or altered.

Rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, sparklers, balloons, birds, butterflies, etc., may not be used, thrown or released in the church or outside on the grounds of the church.
The church is in constant use, and because of safety, maintenance, and time concerns these items are prohibited.

Bubbles or the ringing of bells is allowable if the family wishes a tradition of recognition while the couple is leaving the church.

The only candles permitted are those already in place by the church staff.

The couple will be expected to supply the unity candle should they decide to have one.
The church does not supply unity candles.

All containers used for corsages, floral arrangements, etc., must be removed from the vestibule before leaving the church. This is the responsibility of the attending florist, not the church staff.

GUESTS

- **PARKING** is available in the church lot in front of the church and in the lower lot on Marjorie Drive
- **RECEIVING LINES AND GUEST BOOKS** are permitted but keep in mind that they can be extremely time consuming: in their joy, many of your guests will rightfully want to have a “few” words with you. Please keep in mind your time constraints here at the church, and at the reception venue. Taking too much time can forfeit adequate time for post-ceremony picture taking.

Saint Edward's is a non-smoking facility. Please ask your guests to refrain from smoking inside the Church building or anywhere outside on the church property.