

ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ST. AGNES & ST. MATTHIAS CHURCHES

CHURCH WEDDINGS AT A GLANCE

In addition to two meetings with the priest or deacon, couples preparing for marriage in the church are required to attend Marriage Preparation Classes (often referred to as “Pre-Cana”).

SACRAMENTAL CERTIFICATES

- Newly issued baptismal certificates within *6 months* of your wedding date must be obtained from the churches where the bride and groom were baptized. “*No Notations*” needs to be indicated in the Marriages section. (See page 2.)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION (page 3)

- **PRE-CANA** (*Couples or Retreat*) *Twogether In Love Program*
Jay & Holly Carbonneau 860-908-7221
- **ENGAGED ENCOUNTER** Call the Diocesan Catholic Family Services Office at 860-848-2237, ext 306.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

- Modest attire is required with **covered** shoulders for the bride and her attendants **as well as anyone** who will be participating liturgically in the Mass. (See other restrictions on page 4.)
- Reverent and respectful behavior is expected of the wedding party in church, before, DURING, and after the marriage service/Mass.

CEREMONY TIMES

- The latest scheduled wedding time for a Saturday is 1 p.m.

MUSIC

- All music arrangements must be made through your wedding organist. *It is up to you to contact him/her to discuss music selections for your ceremony.* See page 7.
- *Please note that secular (i.e., non-religious) music is NOT permitted, with the exception of a limited number of pieces from the classical tradition, e.g. Pachelbel’s “Canon” and “The Wedding March” from Lohengrin by Wagner.*

WEDDING COORDINATOR

- Will assist with the ceremony and rehearsal as well as planning your selections.
Ellen Whewell 860-691-1760 bwhewell@rocketmail.com
Marilyn Burridge 860-514-7316 mlbur@conncoll.edu

FEES

- A *Non-refundable* \$100 deposit fee is due within 15 days of confirmation of the wedding date to ensure your date on the church calendar. Final payment is due **1 month** prior to your wedding. All fees are listed on page 5.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

- The license must be acquired at the East Lyme Town Hall within 65 days of your wedding.
- After your wedding, a copy of your processed license will be issued by the Town Hall upon request.

VISITING PRIESTS

- Couples being married at the Church are welcome to arrange for a priest from their home parish or family to marry them. See page 6 for details.

REHEARSAL

- Rehearsals usually last about an hour, are run by the wedding coordinator and are normally scheduled the evening before the wedding sometime between 4:30 and 7 p.m. Anyone participating in the wedding **must** attend. (See page 8.)

ARRIVAL TIMES—WEDDING

- You have the use of the church for two hours beginning 30 minutes before the ceremony. No exceptions due to lateness. Therefore, it is vital that the wedding service begin at the scheduled time. (See page 8.)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Unity candles and unity sand ceremonies are not permitted as these are not part of the Catholic Wedding Liturgy.
- Aisle Runners and Pew Bows are allowed.
- No flowers or petals of any kind may be dropped or thrown.
- No toys, props or other foreign elements may be incorporated in the Wedding Liturgy.
- No rice or bird seed may be thrown and no bubbles may be blown.
- Except for working assist dogs, animals cannot be a part of the wedding ceremony

SEATING CAPACITY (see page 10)

- *St. Agnes Church* Total Seating: 368
- *St. Matthias Church* Total Seating: 550

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Please ensure your photographers abide by the Wedding Photography Policy on page 11.