



Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage

“God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them.”

1 John 4: 16

Who may marry at Saint Junipero Serra Parish?

- **Active Parishioners:** One or both parties of a wedding couple must be an active, contributing member of the parish for at least one year before the requested wedding date. Parishioners are considered active when they are formally registered and show a history of contribution and/or ministry involvement. Children of active parishioners and “summer parishioners” are eligible to celebrate their marriage at either church of Saint Junipero Serra Parish.
- **Roman Catholics who live within the parish boundary:** Roman Catholics who live within the parish boundary, but who have no formal relationship with the parish can speak to the pastor about establishing a relationship with the parish before setting a date for their wedding. The parish boundary includes Seaside Park, Seaside Heights, and Ortley Beach.

What is the availability of wedding dates and times?

- To inquire about availability of the church, couples should contact the parish no less than twelve months before the requested wedding date. Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays at 10:00am, 12:00pm and 1:00pm in Saint Catharine of Siena Church in Seaside Park or in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Seaside Heights. In addition to Saturday, you can schedule a wedding on a Friday afternoon or evening. We do not celebrate weddings on Sundays. Our parish celebrates weddings only inside either of these churches. We do not celebrate weddings in other venues or on the beach.
- Only the couple can inquire about weddings here in St. Junipero Serra Parish. Parents, friends and siblings of the couple may not. The man and woman requesting to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in a church of the parish must contact the pastor at least 12 months prior to the intended wedding date. Call 732-703-0041 and ask for Fr. Michael.
- You can register as a member of Saint Junipero Serra Parish by contacting the parish office at 732-793-0041.

Marriage Requirements of the Diocese of Trenton which includes Saint Junipero Serra Parish

To enter into a valid sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church, a baptized Catholic man and a baptized Catholic woman who are free to marry — that is with no impediments — and an ordained Catholic priest or deacon with the faculties of the Diocese of Trenton as officiant must follow the provisions of the canon law of the Catholic Church. Those provisions are implemented not adapted in the policies of the Diocese of Trenton. The marriage must take place in a Catholic Church or other sacred place approved by the Diocese.

To enter a valid sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church, a baptized Catholic party and a non-Catholic baptized Christian party who are free to marry — that is with no impediments — and an ordained Catholic priest or deacon with the faculties of the Diocese of Trenton as officiant must follow the provisions of the canon law of the Catholic Church. Those provisions are implemented not adapted in the policies of the Diocese of Trenton. A dispensation is not required but “permission” from the Diocese must be obtained. The marriage must take place in a Catholic Church or in a non-Catholic Church or other sacred place approved by the Diocese unless extenuating medical circumstances involving the parties are present.

A marriage between a baptized Catholic party and a non-baptized, non-Catholic or non-Christian party is not considered sacramental but is permitted by the Catholic Church and requires a dispensation from the “disparity of cult.” The baptized Catholic party is still bound by the canon law of the Catholic Church. Although not sacramental, such a marriage invites God’s love and grace for the parties through their good lives and beliefs. Such a marriage may take place in a Catholic Church or other sacred place approved by the Diocese or it may take place in another location approved by the Diocese. Ordinarily, a Catholic priest or deacon with the faculties of the Diocese should officiate at the marriage ceremony according to the rites of the Catholic Church. For someone other than a Catholic priest or deacon with the faculties of the Diocese to officiate using a different formula for marriage, a “dispensation from canonical form” from the Diocese is required.

The dispensations or permissions mentioned above are obtained from the Chancery of the Catholic party before the wedding takes place, usually two weeks ahead of time, so that they can be officially recorded. The request must show freedom to marry in the Church for both parties: a current baptismal certificate for the Catholic party and Form A-1 for the non-Catholic party. If the non-Catholic party is baptized, the record of baptism should be included.

What next?

If you would like to get married in our parish, you will need to meet with our pastor first.

Please contact the parish office to set up an appointment with our pastor, Fr. Michael Lorentsen, OFM Conv.

Fr. Michael maintains the wedding calendar and sets the date for the proposed wedding with the couple.