

St. Joseph's Church
48 Middlesex Ave.
Chester, CT 06412

Phone: 860-526-5495
Fax: 860-526-7880
E-mail: office@olos-stj.org

Dear Friends,

Love and greetings from Fr. Peter!

This "Marriage Kit" is offered to assist you in preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage, which is not merely a one day event, but a lifetime of commitment in the "marriage covenant".

The Sacrament which you will confer on one another, and indeed, the life into which you will enter, is one of the singularly beautiful vocational calls the Lord offers to His people. To enhance the meaning of this Sacrament for you, this "marriage kit" will offer you the necessary preparations which you must complete according to the Norwich Diocese guidelines and policies of St. Joseph's Parish.

The priest and the Pre-Cana Team will assist you in any way we can as you prepare for this joyful and sacred day. Let us know if you have any questions. We wish you the happiest of days, and may this most sacred state into which you wish to enter be always that for each of you.

May God bless you and assist you as you prepare for this special moment and please know that our prayers are with you.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Fr. Arul Rajan Peter



GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

- If you would like to be married at St. Joseph's church and you are not a parishioner you will need to complete your marriage preparation, requisite documentation, pre-marital inventory and necessary dispensations with the Pastor of your parish. In order to reserve a wedding date please provide a letter from your Pastor agreeing to the above requirements and giving his permission to be married outside of your parish.
- Call the Administrative Assistant to get information. Office hours are 8:30 am – 1 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Phone: 860-526-5495; Email: office@olos-stj.org at least 6 months prior to your requested wedding date.
- Fill out Marriage Information form online (<http://www.stjosephschester.org/marriageform.html>).
- Meet with the priest to complete the Pre-marital investigation (PMI) forms at least 2 to 3 months prior to wedding. Please bring the above documents with you at this time.
- Obtain the required documents. (a) Baptismal certificate issued within six months of wedding date. (b) First Communion and Confirmation certificates.
- Complete a mandatory Marriage Preparation Program: This can be done through the local parish. For St. Joseph's or Our Lady of Sorrows, Contact: Chris Mularski at 860-526-5524. Or a weekend retreat through the Diocese of Norwich. Contact Susan Williams at the Office of Family Life in Norwich, CT. Phone: 860-889-8346 ext.283; Email: familylifeoffice@comcast.net
You will receive a certificate verifying that the program has been completed which must be forwarded to our office. If you live outside the area, you may also attend a program through your local parish or diocese. Please contact your local parish for information.
- The marriage license can be obtained at the Chester Town Hall 3 months prior the wedding date, and must be provided to Fr. Peter at least 1 month before the wedding.
- Make arrangements for music with our organist three months prior to wedding date. Our organist is Mr. Andre Toussaint. He can be reached at 860-716-8068 or music@stjosephs-chester.org.

Organist: Fees for organist and other musicians are determined by and paid directly to them. It is assumed that St. Joseph's organist will be used for the wedding and their fee is payable at time of initial consult. Should alternative musicians/music be used, a fee of \$50.00 is still payable to St. Joseph's organist.

- Schedule of fees:

<u>Donation for the Church</u>	\$500.00
Payable at Registration	\$200.00
Payable at the Time of the Rehearsal	\$300.00

Due to the regular Mass schedule there are no Sunday weddings and the latest a Saturday wedding can be help is 2:00 pm. Contact the office if you would like a weekday wedding.