

# St. Clement's Church

Redemptorist Fathers

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Saratoga Springs, New York 12866-2729

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Dear Engaged Couple:

Congratulations on your engagement. We are so happy that you have decided to celebrate your love through the Sacrament of Marriage here at St. Clement's Catholic Church.

Your union is sacred because it is the symbol of the union between Christ and the Church. Your commitment is sacred because it is the sign of Christ's commitment to us, the Church. The Church reminds us: *"Married Christians, in virtue of the Sacrament of Matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and the Church..."* Your preparation for marriage began at the moment of your Baptism and has continued through the years of your faith formation and now the Lord has brought you to this point.

I urge you to spiritually prepare for the sacrament by taking time for reflection and prayer. Besides all the many details of planning your wedding, do not neglect to prepare your spirit for the sacrament. Know that I and the entire staff here at St. Clement's are at your service and will help you every step of the way.

May Christ who was a guest at the Wedding Feast of Cana, be the treasured guest at your own wedding and the constant guest in your home.

Yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Rev. Paul J. Borowski, C.Ss.R.  
Pastor

*Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love 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. (1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 8a)*



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## PRACTICAL PARISH NORMS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Do not make any arrangements for the reception before talking to a priest at St. Clement's

*Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "It is not good that the man should be alone." The woman, "flesh of his flesh," his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a "helpmate"; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh." The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been "in the beginning": "So they are no longer two, but one flesh." (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1605)*

1. **ST. CLEMENT'S MEMBERSHIP:** As in all sacraments, the Sacrament of Marriage is always celebrated in the context of the Christian Community. Therefore, one of the parties must be a registered, practicing Catholic residing in St. Clement's Parish for at least one year prior to the wedding date or have a parent who lives in the geographical area of St. Clement's and attends St. Clement's regularly, provided all other requirements are in order.
2. **MARRIAGE DATE:** *The date for the marriage will be finalized based on the following:*
  - a. An interview with the pastor or one of the priests assigned to St. Clement's.
  - b. The couple agrees to attend one the required Diocesan Programs:
    - i. Pre-Cana Classes or Engaged Encounter
3. **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE:** If you are a Catholic, you are required to obtain from the church where you were baptized a copy of your Baptismal certificate dated within six months prior to the marriage date.
  - a. If you were baptized at St. Clement's, please inform the priest conducting the interview and provide him the month and year of your baptism so we can locate it in our church records.
4. **WEDDING DAYS AND TIMES**
  - a. Friday evenings at 5:30pm
  - b. Saturdays at 11:00am, 1:00pm, 5:30pm or 6:00pm
  - c. Weddings during the Lenten Season are discouraged
  - d. Nuptial Masses are prohibited during Lent
  - e. Weddings cannot be scheduled for Sunday.
5. **CHURCH OFFERINGS:** For all weddings, the customary offering is \$300, which covers the offering for use of the church. When Fr. Neil Draves-Arpaia or a visiting priest/deacon is requested to preside at a wedding, arrangements for a stipend are between the couple and presider.
6. **MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS:** Please call the Music Director, Jeff Stein (518-207-6779) at least two months prior to the wedding date for an appointment. Liturgical music and other arrangements will be discussed. The fee is \$200 for the organist and \$100 for a soloist.
7. **REHEARSAL TIMES:** All rehearsals are limited to one-half (1/2) hour. Depending on the wedding schedule for your weekend, rehearsals will be held:
  - a. Thursday evenings at 5:30pm or 6:00pm
  - b. Friday evenings at 5:00pm or 6:00pm
    - i. If there is a wedding scheduled for Friday, then rehearsals for that Saturday's weddings will be at 4:00pm or 7:00pm

## REHEARSAL REMINDERS:

- c. Please make sure the entire wedding party is on time.
  - i. Because we normally have several rehearsals and/or wedding on one night, you are limited to only the time for which you have been scheduled. It is your responsibility to make sure the wedding party is on time and ready to begin the rehearsal.
  - ii. If there is a visiting priest/deacon, our sacristan will be present at the rehearsal to facilitate and familiarize him with the church and our wedding procedure. Please remind the visiting priest/deacon of the necessity of keeping to the designated times for both the rehearsal and the wedding.
  - iii. Kindly remind the wedding party that the wedding is a sacred moment and to conduct themselves accordingly. Please refrain from drinking any alcoholic beverages on the church grounds prior to the ceremony.
- d. Because of the religious nature of the wedding ceremony, discussion of the ceremony should be limited to the presiding priest/deacon (or the person conducting the rehearsal) and the couple.
- e. On the evening of the rehearsal the couple is required to bring:
  - i. The Marriage License
  - ii. The church offering
  - iii. The organist stipend
    1. All donations and documents should be given to the person conducting the rehearsal.

### 8. FLOWERS: Flowers are optional for the wedding, however:

- a. If there is a second wedding that day, we encourage the brides to get together for the cost of the flowers.
- b. No ribbons, candles, etc are to be fastened to the pews by means of tape, wire and/or metal fasteners.
- c. Nothing is to be placed on the Altar.
- d. Flower girls must not drop flower petals (real or fake) down the aisle.
- e. A runner is permitted although not recommended. If the florist inquires about the length for your runner, the aisle is 70 feet long.
  - i. It is recommended that if a runner is used, the responsibility for placing it down be with the florist and we kindly ask that two of the ushers help in its removal.

### 9. PHOTOGRAPHER and VIDEO PERSON: *The following information must be shared with your photographer and/or video person before the rehearsal. Because of some difficulties in the past, the following norms are in effect for weddings here at St. Clement's*

- a. The photographer/video person can take pictures up front as the entrance procession begins. At all other times during the ceremony the photographer/video person must remain at least 10 benches from the sanctuary area.
- b. No video equipment will be allowed in the sanctuary area, even if it is unattended.
- c. We permit you to stay up to one half (1/2) hour after the ceremony. This time may be used for a receiving line or for photographs.

### 10. AFTER THE CEREMONY:

- a. Again, you are permitted to stay up to one half (1/2) hour after the ceremony. This time may be used for a receiving line or for photographs.
- b. As pictures are being taken, two of the ushers should be asked to clean up the major items from the church after the wedding. If a runner is used, the ushers should place it in the sacristy (behind the altar). Other major items to clean up would include: any remaining programs used for the ceremony, empty flower cartons, pew bows, etc.

### 11. FINAL NOTE:

- a. The throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, etc., either within or outside the church **IS NOT ALLOWED.**
- b. Beverages or foods are not permitted in the church.

**On behalf of the Parish Staff of St. Clement's we thank you in advance for following these norms.**

**Policy date: October 1, 2008**