



MARRIAGE GUIDE 2026



Most Holy Trinity
St. Mary Church
trinity-stmary.org

Celebrating Weddings at Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary Church

WELCOME

Marriage in the Catholic Church is not simply a private event or beautiful ceremony. It is a sacred covenant and sacrament celebrated within the life of the Church. Ideally, Catholics prepare for and celebrate marriage within the parish community where they worship, grow in faith, and participate in the life of the Church.

In a city like New York, people's lives are often mobile and complex. Many people move frequently, commute long distances, or find spiritual homes outside the parish closest to where they live. We are happy to work with couples from many different backgrounds and situations. At the same time, we ask every couple to approach marriage as a spiritual commitment rooted in prayer, faith, and community, not simply as the use of a beautiful venue.

Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary Church is first and foremost a Catholic parish church and place of worship. All weddings celebrated here are sacred liturgical celebrations of the Church and must reflect the dignity, reverence, and norms of Catholic worship.

To be married in the Catholic Church, at least one member of the couple must be Catholic. Catholics can receive permission to marry Christians of other denominations, persons of another religion, or persons with no religious affiliation.

It is also important that neither party be previously married. If there has been a previous marriage, please do not set a wedding date until speaking with one of the friars. Additional time may be needed to determine whether marriage in the Catholic Church is possible.

A. Most Holy Trinity – St. Mary Is My Parish

This is where I regularly worship and participate in the life of the Church.

1. Meet with one of the friars for an initial conversation and to schedule the wedding date and rehearsal.
2. Complete the required marriage forms and prenuptial investigation.
3. Receive the wedding planning materials.
4. For Catholic persons, obtain a newly issued baptismal certificate from the church of baptism. Others can provide an already held certificate of Baptism.
5. Provide proof of Confirmation if it is not listed on the baptismal certificate.
6. Complete witness affidavits testifying to freedom to marry.
7. Complete an approved marriage preparation program or Pre-Cana.
8. Meet with the friar preparing you for marriage.
9. Meet with the presider to plan the liturgy.

B. I Belong to Another Parish

Catholics who belong to another parish should ordinarily complete their marriage preparation and prenuptial paperwork through their home parish.

1. Meet with your pastor or parish priest and obtain written permission to celebrate the wedding at Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary.
2. Ordinarily, the marriage preparation and paperwork should be completed through your home parish and then transferred to us for the celebration of the wedding.
3. Once permission has been granted and preparation is underway, meet with one of the friars here to schedule the wedding and rehearsal.
4. If you wish for your own priest or deacon to witness the marriage here, he must receive delegation from our parish.
5. If you would like one of our friars or deacons to celebrate the wedding, we will work with you to prepare the liturgy and ceremony.
6. In some situations, and for good pastoral reasons, arrangements may be made for preparation to take place through our parish.

C. I Do Not Yet Have a Parish Community

1. If you live in Williamsburg and would like Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary to become your parish community, we would be happy to accompany you as you prepare for marriage and begin your vocation together in the Church.
2. Because marriage preparation is rooted in the life of the Christian community, couples seeking to establish Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary as their parish should allow for additional preparation time. This ordinarily includes:
 - registering in the parish
 - attending Mass regularly
 - participating in the sacramental and community life of the parish
 - contributing regularly to the support of the parish according to one's means
 - participating in one of our faith formation or parish formation programs
3. If you live outside the Williamsburg area and do not yet have a parish community, the first step should ordinarily be to connect with a parish where you live and begin your preparation there.

D. I Would Like My Wedding to Take Place in Another Parish

1. If Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary is your parish community, we will gladly help you complete the preparation and paperwork necessary for your wedding to take place elsewhere.
2. If you do not belong to this parish, you should contact the parish where you worship or live in order to begin preparation there.

Civil Requirements

A valid New York marriage license is required and must be presented to the parish no later than one week before the wedding. Marriage licenses are valid for 60 days after issuance.

Days and Times for Weddings

Weddings are ordinarily celebrated on Saturdays between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Some weekday weddings may also be possible depending on the parish schedule.

Weddings are not celebrated on Sundays and may not take place on certain major feasts or holy days, including Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

Please note that weddings celebrated during Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter must respect the liturgical season and existing church decorations. Weddings during Lent are strongly discouraged.

The Wedding Liturgy

We will work with you to create a beautiful and prayerful celebration in keeping with the Catholic tradition.

Please remember that weddings must begin on time. Significant delays may require parts of the ceremony to be shortened or, in extreme situations, the wedding to be postponed.

1. Music

All music used in the church must be sacred and appropriate for Catholic worship.

Our parish organist and cantors are ordinarily required. Outside musicians or alternative instruments must be approved in advance by the presider.

The traditional "Here Comes the Bride" processional is not used at Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary.

Please contact our Music Director, Darren Denman, as early as possible.

2. Entrance Procession

The Catholic wedding liturgy focuses on the couple together entering into Christian marriage.

The couple may process together or use the more traditional entrance of the bride accompanied by parents or family members. The presider will help determine what is most appropriate.

3. Non-Catholic or Cultural Customs

Certain customs commonly seen at weddings are not part of Catholic worship and are not permitted during the liturgy, including unity candles and similar symbolic additions.

Approved cultural or ethnic customs may be incorporated with prior discussion and approval.

Confetti, rice, flower petals, sparklers, bubbles, or similar materials may not be used inside or outside the church.

4. Wedding Planners

Wedding planners are welcome to assist with logistics before and after the liturgy but may not direct or interfere with the ceremony itself.

The priest or deacon presiding at the wedding directs the liturgy.

5. Photography, Videography & Content Creators

We understand the importance of preserving memories from your wedding day. Professional photographers and videographers are welcome provided they respect the sacred nature of the liturgy.

All photographers, videographers, livestream operators, content creators, and social media teams must meet with the presider at least 15 minutes before the ceremony.

This includes:

- professional photography teams
- videographers
- social media content creators
- assistants using phones, stabilizers, or handheld recording devices

No additional media personnel may be added on the day of the wedding without prior approval.

Media personnel:

- may not enter the sanctuary unless explicitly permitted
- may not block aisles or guest visibility
- may not use excessive lighting
- may not direct the liturgy or interrupt prayer
- may not roam independently through the church during the ceremony

Content creators and assistants must remain with and follow the same guidelines as the approved photography/videography team.

The presider reserves the right to restrict any activity that becomes distracting, disruptive, theatrical, or disrespectful to the sacred character of the liturgy.

6. Decorations

Fresh flowers are welcome.

We strongly recommend using our parish florist, especially for pew decorations and arrangements within the church. Our florist is familiar with the requirements of our historic church and knows how to decorate in a way that is both beautiful and safe.

Nothing may be attached to pews, walls, or furnishings using tape, adhesives, tacks, glue, command strips, or similar materials. Pew decorations may only be tied on in a manner that does not damage the church.

Artificial flowers, aisle runners, lighting rigs, scaffolding, staging, or alterations to the church are not permitted.

Please note that the church may already be decorated according to the liturgical season.

Confetti, rice, flower petals, sparklers, bubbles, or similar materials may not be used inside or outside the church.

7. Livestreaming

The parish is able to livestream weddings at no additional cost. The livestream uses a fixed camera angle focused on the sanctuary.

Offerings

The offerings below support the ministry of the parish, the maintenance of our historic church, and the many people who assist in preparing and celebrating weddings at Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary.

Active Parishioners

Church Offering: \$500

(\$200 deposit due at first meeting / \$300 balance due at rehearsal)

Couples from Other Parishes

Church Offering: \$1,000

(\$300 deposit due at first meeting / \$700 balance due at rehearsal)

The church offering may be made by check, cash, or through our online giving platform.

Additional Wedding Stipends

(please place each in separate labeled envelopes)

Priest or Deacon: \$200 cash

Altar Server: \$50 cash

Organist: \$150 cash or arranged directly with the Music Director

Cantor: \$150 cash or arranged directly with the Music Director

Offerings Online



Financial Hardship

No one will ever be denied a wedding in the Catholic Church because of genuine financial hardship. Couples who may need special financial consideration should speak directly with the friar preparing them for marriage before scheduling the wedding or making assumptions regarding fees or offerings.

Marriage Paperwork for Weddings Elsewhere

Preparation and paperwork for weddings celebrated elsewhere:

\$250 parish fee

Additional diocesan courier fees may apply for transfers.

If your wedding is outside the Diocese of Brooklyn, the following fees must be made by check/money order to "Diocese of Brooklyn": \$50 for weddings in the USA or \$100 for International weddings.

Contact Information

Friar Richard Riccioli, OFM Conv.
friarrick@trinity-stmary.org

Friar Miroslaw Podymniak, OFM Conv.
fr.mirek@trinity-stmary.org

Friar Louis Maximilian Smith, OFM Conv.
fr.louismax@trinity-stmary.org

Deacon Eric
deaconeric@trinity-stmary.org

Darren Denman, Music Director
darren@trinity-stmary.org

Adriana (Florist - Spanish Speaking)
646-353-9983



Most Holy Trinity
St. Mary Church
trinity-stmary.org