

# WEDDING POLICY OF ST. SIMON STOCK CHURCH

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***Rule number one: Love God***

***Rule number two: Love each other and that you want God to be part of your marriage.***

The Sacrament of marriage is a public prayer! We are very happy that you have chosen to be married at St. Simon Stock. We hope the following guidelines will assist you in sharing your declaration of love in front of your family and friends!

- First step is to contact a priest of the parish to discuss the date and time for the marriage. This is usually a six months span for preparation for marriage. Since marriage usually occurs in the Parish of the bride, if the bride is from another parish, we ask that she provides a letter from her parish granting permission to marry here. (Should neither bride nor groom belong to St. Simon Stock Church, please contact with a priest of the parish). Normally, weddings take place on Saturdays, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm (Schedule may Change). Wedding rehearsals are usually scheduled for Friday evening.
- Marriage preparation program helps a couple appreciate their love and knowledge of each other more profoundly. Pre-Cana or its equivalent is expected. We urge you to attend a marriage preparation program six months to a year before your marriage. To register online; please go to website of the Family Life Office –<http://www.flrl.org>- (*Please do not register for a program before your first meeting with your priest or deacon, because they can provide you with guidance about the program and the process.*)
- Consult the Parish Organist for the music at your wedding.
- Please, have the photographer consult the priest/deacon. Cameras are not allowed in the sanctuary. We ask that the photographer be stationary between the procession at the beginning and the end.
- While flowers are not placed on the altar, they are permitted in the sanctuary. Aisle runners are provided by the couple, usually through the florist (The Church aisle measures \_\_\_\_\_ feet in length)
- In the interest of safety, no rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals etc. is to be thrown during or after the wedding (Suggested alternatives – whistles or bubbles)
- Wedding Fees:

• Organist	\$100.00
• Singer	\$100.00 (Plus \$25.00 Consultation fee)
• Use of Church	\$250.00
• Priest/Deacon	Freewill offering

Dispensations (if needed for mixed marriage or from canonical form) have a suggested donation of \$50.00 each. Dispensation checks are to be made payable to The Archdiocese of New York.

## Requirement before Marriage

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1. The couples must obtain a valid New York Marriage License within 60 days of their wedding date. Please give license to the priest. All fees must be paid in full before the rehearsal.
2. Catholic baptized in parishes other than St. Simon Stock must provide a baptismal certificate dated within 6 months of the wedding. Catholics must also provide certificates of Confirmation and First Communion.
3. Non-Catholic Baptized Christians must provide proof of Baptism, either by means of certificate or by signed statements by parents or other relatives. Practicing Non-Catholics should have a letter of permission from their pastor indicating that they have no objection to the marriage.
4. A Non-Catholic and a Non-Baptized person should present their Birth Certificate and signed statements by parents or other relatives indicating satisfactory proof of their freedom to marry.
5. At least 6 months before your wedding, your priest or deacon has to fill out a “Pre-Marital investigation” questionnaire. To complete the “PMI” he’ll need the documents described above.
6. If either of you were previously married –even if it was a civil marriage – speak to your priest or deacon as soon as possible in order to satisfy the requirements of canon law.
7. Couples are encouraged to help plan their marriage ceremony. It is your public prayer revealing your love for each other! Talk with the consulting priest or deacon regarding rituals like exchanging the arrhas, the lasso, lighting a nuptial candle, praying before a representation of Mary or the Holy Family, etc.