

Marriage Guidelines for Members of Our Parish

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish serving:

- **Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Essex**
- **St. Joseph's Church, Chester**

Initial Contact

Please contact the parish office **at least six (6) months** before your intended wedding date:

- **Essex Office:** (860) 767-1284
- **Chester Office:** (860) 526-5495
- **Email:** office@stocpct.org

You will also need to complete a [Marriage Information Forms](#) and schedule an appointment with the pastor, either at Our Lady of Sorrows Church (Essex) or St. Joseph's Church, Chester.

Marriage Preparation

Completion of a **Marriage Preparation Program** is mandatory.

Options include:

- A weekend retreat organized by the Diocese of Norwich
- An online **Pre-Cana program** offered through the **Diocese of Norwich**

You will receive a certificate upon completion, which must be submitted to our office.

Visit the [Diocese of Norwich Marriage Prep Page](#) for more information.

Music Arrangements

Please make music arrangements **at least three (3) months** before your wedding date.

- **Choir Director for Our Lady of Sorrows Church:**

Irene Listorti – (860) 388-9884 | musicessex@stocpct.org

- **Choir Director for St. Joseph's Church:**

Wendy Hummel – (860) 559-9807 | musicchester@stocpct.org

Note: Fees for the organist and any additional musicians are determined and paid directly to them.

If you choose alternative music or musicians, a **\$50** fee is still required for the parish organist.

Marriage License

Marriage licenses should be obtained from the **Town Hall** of the town where the wedding will take place.

Licenses may be secured up to **3 months** before the wedding date.

Wedding Day Scheduling

Due to regular parish Mass schedules:

- **Sunday** weddings are **NOT permitted**
- **Saturday** weddings must begin **no later than 2:00 PM**
- **Weekday** weddings are available upon request; please contact the office

Schedule of Fees

- Total Donation for the Church: \$1000.00
 - o Deposit at Registration: \$300.00
 - o Balance Due at Rehearsal: \$700.00