

Marriage Guidelines for Non-Parishioners

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish has two churches:

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

If you are not a member of our parish and would like to be married at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, please follow the steps outlined below.

Step 1: Obtain Your Pastor's Permission

To reserve a wedding date:

- Print this letter: [Click here.](#)
- Meet with your pastor and request a letter that includes:
 - His agreement to complete your marriage preparation.
 - Oversight of all required documentation, including the pre-marital inventory and any necessary dispensations.
 - His permission for you to marry outside your home parish.
- Submit this letter to our parish office.

Step 2: Contact Our Parish Office

Reach out at least **six months** before your desired wedding date:

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

Step 3: Complete the Marriage Information Form

- Fill out the Marriage Information Form: [Click Here.](#)

Step 4: Meet with Our Pastor

- Schedule an appointment with the pastor at either Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Essex or St. Joseph's Church, Chester.

Step 5: Complete a Mandatory Marriage Preparation Program

You may fulfill this requirement in one of two ways:

- **Through your local parish**, contact your pastor or
 - A weekend retreat or 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.

Step 6: Music Arrangements

Contact the appropriate organist at least **three months** before your wedding:

- **Our Lady of Sorrows, Essex:** Irene Listorti – (860) 388-9884 | musicessex@stocpct.org
- **St. Joseph's, Chester:** Wendy Hummel – (860) 559-9807 | musicchester@stocpct.org

Note: Fees for music services are arranged directly with the musicians. If you choose alternative music/musicians, a **\$50.00** fee is still payable to the parish organist.

Step 7: Marriage License

Obtain your marriage license from the Town Hall where the wedding will take place.

Licenses are valid up to **three months** before your wedding date.

Step 8: Scheduling Notes:

- **Sunday** weddings are **NOT** permitted due to the regular Mass schedule.
- **Saturday** weddings must be scheduled **no later than 2:00 PM.**
- For **weekday** weddings, please contact the parish office.

Fee Schedule:

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