

Wedding Steps For St Patrick, St Rocco, & St Hyacinth

1. **Send Email** to the appropriate contact below to begin. In the email, please give your names, where you both currently live, and your hoped-for wedding date(s):

- St Patrick & St Rocco & Hyacinth: Fr Daniel dom_daniel_nash@yahoo.com
- St Patrick (Spanish): Cynthia Baños cynthiabanos10@gmail.com
- St Rocco (Extraordinary Form): Fr Daniel dom_daniel_nash@yahoo.com

2. Begin Wedding Preparation

- If at least one of you is a **current** parishioner, your preparation, which begins with a **pre-nuptial interview (PNI)**, will normally be done at the parish. This is done ***no sooner than 14 months before the wedding***.
 - **Current Parishioner Determination:** While many people have years-long family and childhood ties to a parish, it is the nearest Catholic parish to which you currently live and/or attend Mass weekly that determines where you are a parishioner.
 - Before we meet, you must read “**A Primer on Catholic Marriage**” attached below and read/sign/return to me the “**Solemn Pre-Nuptial Declaration**” that follows.
- If neither of you is a current parishioner, your preparation **must** take place at the Catholic parish in which one of you is a parishioner and/or attends weekly Mass most often. Please inform your parish of your intent to get married, taking with you the “**Marriage Permission**” form below. Once we receive the signed form from your pastor/parish, and your signed “**Solemn Pre-Nuptial Declaration**” we will put the date on our calendar.

3. Set a Date and Make a Deposit

- A wedding date is then reserved with a **\$250 non-refundable deposit**, which will be applied to the total church donation and is due after the pre-nuptial interview is completed. **This cannot be done before a successful PNI, so reserving wedding dates more than 14 months in advance of a wedding are not possible.**
- To qualify for the parishioner rate, one of the two following criteria must be met:
 - The bride or the groom either currently lives within the boundaries of St Patrick Church or is registered at St Rocco or St Hyacinth.
 - The parents of the bride or groom either live within the boundaries of St Patrick Church or are registered at St Rocco or St Hyacinth.
- The donations/fees are as follows:

	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Monday - Saturday:	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Sundays:	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00

Music:	\$350	\$350
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4. **Plan the Wedding.** After the interview a wedding guide will be emailed to you. **Wedding ceremonies** are normative for most weddings. Wedding Masses may only be requested/celebrated when all the following criteria are met and approved by the pastor:
 - The bride and/or groom must be a Mass-attending parishioner at St Patrick, St Rocco, or St Hyacinth
 - The couple must not be living together before marriage.
 - Both the bride and groom must be Catholic.
5. **Recent Copies of Baptismal Certificates.** Request (from your church of baptism), obtain, and deliver a ***newly issued copy of your baptismal certificate*** to whoever is conducting your preparation. This certificate must be issued no earlier than 6 months before the wedding. This is not necessary if you were baptized at St Patrick, St Rocco, or St Hyacinth.
6. **Complete Pre-Cana Course & Provide Completion Certificate.** There are several possible options for the Pre-Cana course, and this will be discussed at the PNI. If it is recommended that you take one of the courses offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, they can be scheduled by visiting the following website: <https://www.drvc-faith.org/marriage-ministry/>.
 - Classes in our neighboring NY dioceses are also acceptable.
 - If you are doing your preparation at another parish, follow its guidelines.
7. **Schedule the Rehearsal:** Contact the Parish Office three months before the wedding to schedule a rehearsal.
8. **Obtain a New York State marriage license:** This can be done no earlier than 60 days before the wedding. It should be delivered to the parish office as soon as possible, but no later than the rehearsal. Without a New York State marriage license no wedding is possible.
9. **Attend the rehearsal.**
 - Bring the marriage license if it was not yet provided, as well as the appropriate fees.
 - If your preparation was done elsewhere, that parish should have sent your wedding folder to St Patrick in time for the rehearsal. It is your responsibility to check with them to make sure that it has happened.
10. **Show up. Get married!**

A PRIMER ON CATHOLIC MARRIAGE

How wonderful it is when a man and a woman, finding in each other love and friendship, ask that God bless and unite them in the holy bond of matrimony! Our society doesn't require that you come to the Church and do this before God for the civil effects, but you know that, as a Catholic (at least one of you must be Catholic), this is precisely where it must be done if it is to be real.

After reading this document and signing below, you will need to complete a Pre-Nuptial Interview (PNI). The purpose of the PNI is threefold. First, it is a means to gather required biographical information. The second is to ask a few questions to see if there are any impediments to getting married. Most often there are none, but if some arise, they need to be addressed and usually can be. The third reason is the most important, and that is to make sure that you understand what marriage is. This is most important because, in the end, it is not a priest or deacon who marries you, but rather it is you two who will marry each other. It is the consent or "I do" of the groom and the bride that makes the marriage. But in order for someone to say "yes" to something in any real way, it is required that you both know what you are saying yes to.

In the case of marriage, it is absolutely critical and non-negotiable that both of you understand it to include three characteristics or goods:

1. **Permanent** – "Until death do us part!" Almost everyone says, "I believe that" but the sheer number of failed marriages in our society seems to argue that many enter marriage without the firm resolve that this is indeed true. Any attitude that treats marriage as a temporary bond entered into or left at the whim of one of the spouses, or as something that can be left if it doesn't turn out the way one planned cannot be present in a real and valid marriage. The "I do" in the vows must include the good and the bad, sickness as well as health, poorer as well as richer, and so on. Please note that any form of pre-nuptial agreement violates this understanding of permanence. Are you ready to say yes to this?
2. **Faithful** – This means that your spouse becomes your primary concern, and that nobody else is allowed to break into that bond, either physically or emotionally. The prior is obvious, but the latter is every bit as important. Your hearts belong to each other, and letting anything or anybody into your heart or mind, especially something like pornography, damages or destroys faithfulness. I mention pornography specifically because it is a growing and more frequent problem. Porn addiction is real, and it destroys marriage, much like any addiction. Its effect on the brain is amazingly like that of heroin, so if either of you have a habit of this, you need to talk about it and resolve this before saying "I do".
3. **Fruitful** – This means that you are open to the gift of new life from God. It also means that if there are **serious**¹ concerns about the timing of getting pregnant at some point, you will give this prayerful consideration and, if there is a temporary reason not to get pregnant, you will use only natural and approved methods² to time a pregnancy. I sadly realize that using artificial contraception is normative in our society, but it is always sinful. While its use grants certain apparent freedoms, these so-called freedoms come at a great cost, and there are indeed serious sinful and practical consequences that come with their use. Chief among them is that when the possibility of children is taken out of the sexual act, it is much easier for husbands and wives to objectify the other. Communication about one of the most important aspects of your marriage (having children) is forcefully taken off the table. This never strengthens but always erodes relationships. Be open to life and trust in God. You won't regret it!

Now that you have learned about the three goods of marriage, it is time to discuss....

Two Common Mistakes to Avoid

¹"Serious" generally means significant poverty-level hardships or serious mental or physical illnesses.

² Ask me about what Natural Family Planning is, how very effective it is, and how it builds exceptionally strong marriages.

Now, the following might be difficult or uncomfortable to read, but it needs to be said because the fact is that society has lied to you about love and marriage, and chances are you may not have heard compelling arguments from the Church about why we teach what we do about relationships and marriage. If you are making any of these following mistakes, which are objectively detrimental to human fulfilment, there is time to correct them. No judgements here, just an opportunity to share with you some of the wisdom of our Faith.

1. **Waiting too long for marriage.** In a perfect world, a general rule of thumb is that a couple should get to know each other for about a year or so before engagement, and then get married as soon as possible thereafter, from six months to a year. After all, why wait longer than necessary? Common excuses for a longer-than-normal engagement often speak to a lack of seriousness or lack of understanding about what we just discussed marriage to be.

Is it money? Is it the reception hall? Or what about completing school or a work-related issue? The fact is that if money is an issue, a wedding can be celebrated very inexpensively. If busy life events are an issue, the wedding can be very simple. In the end, if you love one another and intend to spend the rest of your lives together, then why wait? Why not get married and then complete your studies? Why not have a simple wedding now, and throw a big party later when and if you can afford it? You need to ask yourselves ***what is more important, the marriage or the wedding***, your life together or all the other things?

Now, I know that what I just said may sound out-of-date or weird, and I get that. Odds are that you probably think that most common reasons for delaying marriage seem quite reasonable, and I don't blame you. I don't blame you because our society doesn't think marriage is something that must be done with any urgency, and this is usually because of the most common mistake...

2. **Living together and/or having sex before marriage.** I have no intention of asking you if you are doing this, but let's face it, many people are. Why do couples often take so long to get married? Because they are already doing, for the most part, what only married people are supposed to do.

If you are having a physical relationship, my advice to you, both morally and practically, is to stop until the wedding. Why does the Church teach that sex outside of marriage is sinful? It is not because some celibate old men want to make your lives difficult, but rather because sin damages you and your relationship. I'm interested in your happiness and for this reason alone I'm writing this.

Sex within marriage is awesome and powerful. When there are difficult times, often it is the physical embrace that keeps a couple together. It helps smooth over problems until they can be resolved maturely and prudently. Before marriage, however, sex often has an opposite and nefarious effect. Since it is so powerful, significant problems in a relationship often go unaddressed if sex is involved. "Who cares about X, the sex is good," one might think. Then, years later, when sex isn't as mesmerizing as it used to be, the problem that was never addressed becomes more evident, and it often shatters marriages.

I would argue that it is **impossible** for a man and a woman to be absolutely certain that they love one another (in sickness and in health, etc.) if sex is involved before marriage. It is simply too powerful. Do yourselves a huge favor and wait until the wedding. If you can make it that long without sex and **STILL** want to spend your lives together, then you have nothing to worry about going the distance!

Having read this, let me know if you have any questions. If you do not, please read, sign, and return the declaration below.

– Fr Gabriel

Solemn Pre-Nuptial Declaration

We the undersigned, freely asking to be married in the Catholic Church and according to Her norms, solemnly declare, that as we begin preparation for our marriage, we have read the above document and have been instructed about the following critical teachings of the Catholic Faith.

- 1 CCC 1601 The matrimonial covenant, by which a [biological] man and a [biological] woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.
- 2 Any sexual activity engaged in before marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church as a grave violation of the 6th Commandment, damaging a person's relationship with God and harms anyone else involved in it. It should be confessed before one presents him/herself for Holy Communion.
- 3 Any use of artificial contraception, even after marriage, also constitutes a grave violation of the 6th Commandment. It is the intentional removal of a man's and/or woman's God-given fertility, integral to who they are as men and women. Acceptable methods to delay pregnancy, like Natural Family Planning, encourage communication within marriage and make use of a woman's natural fertility cycles.
- 4 A civil marriage contracted into without the consent of the Catholic Church is not valid, and a couple should abstain from any sexual activity as described above.
- 5 Living together before marriage, even if the above points are respected, nevertheless creates public scandal since people reasonably assume that the above points are not being respected. It should be avoided prior to marriage.
- 6 Attending Mass weekly is a solemn duty of every Catholic, rooted in the 3rd Commandment. Missing Mass without just cause (illness, travel, unavoidable work) constitutes a failure to make time for proper worship of God. This serious sin should also be confessed before one presents him/herself for Holy Communion.
- 7 The cost of a wedding reception and the desire to celebrate a marriage with friends and family are not sufficient reasons to delay marriage longer than necessary, especially if any of the above points are not being respected. One may always have an inexpensive and small wedding before planning a big wedding reception/party.

Groom

Bride

MARRIAGE PERMISSION FORM

Saint Patrick Parish
Glen Cove, NY

Church of St Rocco
Glen Cove, NY

Church of St Hyacinth
Glen Head, NY

Dear Father,

I have been approached by _____ and _____, one or both of whom live(s) within your parish, regarding their desire to celebrate their marriage at St Patrick, St Rocco or St Hyacinth. Neither of them currently lives within our parish, and I require that their preparation take place at their current parish. I have sent them to you to begin their marriage preparation and to obtain permission to be married outside their parish.

So that I may put this wedding date on our calendar and be assured that their preparation is underway, I ask you to inform me that the pre-nuptial interview has been successfully completed with no significant impediments.

For the sake of ease, please feel free to simply copy the below text and email it back to me and Fr Daniel at domgabriel@canonry.org and dom_daniel_nash@yahoo.com to confirm.

Thank you for your assistance.



The Very Reverend Dom Gabriel Rach, Can. Reg.
Pastor

Dear Father Gabriel,

I have met with _____ and _____, and they have successfully completed the pre-nuptial investigation. There are no major impediments, and you may feel free to put their wedding on your church calendar.

Please choose one of the following:

_____My parish is within the Diocese of Rockville Centre. I will forward you the completed wedding packet at least a month before the wedding.

_____My parish is NOT within the Diocese of Rockville Centre. I will forward the completed wedding packet to my diocesan chancery for forwarding to the Rockville Centre Chancery at least one month before the wedding.

signature
Pastor _____

Email _____