

Directions to the Catholic Church of St. Mary

2001 Springdale Road; Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
(856) 424-1454

From the Ben Franklin Bridge:

Take Route 30 East for 2.2 miles to Route 70 East. Follow Route 70 East 6.1 miles to Marlkress Road jug handle. [*Exxon Station on far right hand corner*] Follow the sign for *Greentree Road and North Springdale Road*, staying in the middle lane. This jughandle will take you back across Route 70. Go to the first light, turning left onto *North Springdale Road*. The Church entrance is 2.1 mile on the right side.

From Route 295:

Get off at Exit 34A to Route East for .1 mile to Marlkress Road jug handle. [*Exxon Station on far right hand corner*] Follow the sign for *Greentree Road and North Springdale Road*, staying in the middle lane. This jug handle will take you back across Route 70. Go to the first light turning left onto *North Springdale Road*. The Church entrance is .1 mile on the right side.

From Route 73 at the Marlton Circle:

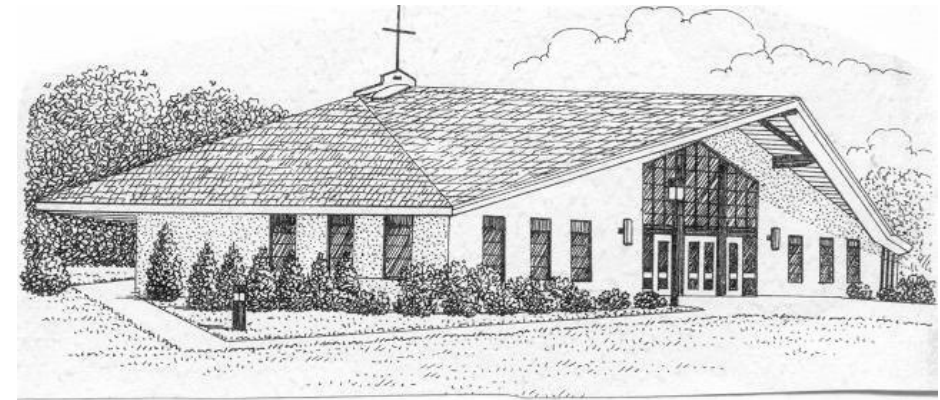
Take Route 70 Westbound for 2.1 miles to *Springdale Road*. Turn right onto Springdale Road and travel .3 mile to the church entrance on the right side.

From the NJ Turnpike:

At Exit 4 take Rt. 73 South to McDonald's (about 0.2 miles). Turn right at McDonald's connecting road to stop sign. Turn right onto Church Road to first traffic light. Turn left at light onto Springdale Road. Church is 1 mile down on left side.



Guidelines for Weddings



Catholic Church of St. Mary
2001 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

(856) 424-1454

Website: stmarycherryhill.org

Pastor email: pastor@stmarycherryhill.org



WEDDING PARTY

There are no restrictions on the number of persons in your party. They do not have to be Catholic. However, because toddlers are often distressed and fearful in unusual, unfamiliar, and formal situations like weddings, we **strongly discourage children under the age of 5** from being included in your wedding party, at least for your church service. If you still intend to include any, you must arrange for adult supervision of them at **all** times, including escorting them up the aisle during the procession at the beginning of the ceremony and taking them to where you wish them to be seated. Pets are not permitted.

*Now that you've read these guidelines, you're ready to make an appointment with a parish priest or deacon. At this meeting he will review these procedures and process, record some basic information, answer any questions, address any concerns, and formally reserve the date for your wedding. Our Office Staff can inform you in advance of the availability of a specific date/time, but **only** a parish priest or deacon is authorized to record and confirm it. Again, congratulations on your engagement and may God bless you with a lifetime of happiness and eternal love!*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office:	856-424-1454	office@stmarycherryhill.org
Fr. Michael Matveenکو:	“ ext. 1011	pastor@stmarycherryhill.org
Deacon Bob Scarpa:	856-795-1160	deaconbob@stmarycherryhill.org
Music Director, Jim Rabic:	856-424-1454, ext. 1006	jrubicmusic@stmarycherryhill.org

Registrars of Vital Statistics (Marriage Licenses):

Cherry Hill	820 Mercer Street 08002	856-488-7865
Marlton	984 Tuckerton Road 08053	856-983-2900
Mt. Laurel	100 Mt. Laurel Road 08054	856-234-0001

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Professional photo/videographers are welcome to record your marriage celebration. A general requirement is that they never enter the Sanctuary (the raised area at the front of the church) at any time. They should always try to avoid being a distraction and should always check with the officiant prior to the beginning of the ceremony for any other instructions.

You are allotted **30 minutes** after the ceremony for picture-taking inside the church.

FLORAL AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

You are welcome to hire a florist to create arrangements for your wedding celebration. Usually, 2 baskets of flowers for the Sanctuary are sufficient. If you wish to make a traditional tribute to the Blessed Mother at the end of the ceremony, and if you wish to offer flowers to parents or other guests at the Sign of Peace, arrangements should be discussed with your Officiant and made with your florist.

Seasonal decorations that adorn the Sanctuary and other areas of the church may not be removed for any reason. Please be especially aware of this if you plan your wedding during autumn or the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Easter. If you are choosing a date in **February, March, or April**, please note that floral arrangements for the Altar area are **not permitted in Lent**.

For safety & maintenance concerns, flower petals (real or artificial), glitter, rice, confetti, or birdseed may **not** be dispersed inside OR outside the Church. Aisle runners, the launching of balloons, and release of any wildlife are likewise not permitted. The blowing of soap bubbles or horns or the ringing of small bells as the Bride and Groom leave the Church are permitted.

Pew markers (bows, floral arrangements, etc.) are permitted but may be fastened **only** by plastic clips, string, or rubber bands. **Staples or tape of any kind is forbidden**. For safety concerns, ribbon or swags may not be draped along the aisles. All pews must be accessible on both sides.

WEDDING GUIDELINES CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARY - CHERRY HILL, NJ

*Congratulations on your engagement! All of us at St. Mary's rejoice in your love for each other and are delighted that you would like to celebrate your marriage here. Christian marriage is a life-long covenant couples create with God, His People, and of course each other. Please accept our sincere best wishes and prayers for all God has in store for you. The following guidelines are offered to assist you in planning not just for that wonderful day you will become husband and wife in Christ, but for a life together filled with faithful, fruitful love and happiness. Please read these guidelines **thoroughly** before you contact the parish office or one of our clergy. In the meantime, please accept our sincere best wishes and prayers as you plan your wedding and new life together! God bless you!*

FREEDOM TO MARRY

To be married in the Catholic Church, **both** parties must be at least 18 years of age, unrelated by blood, and have no prior marriages. At least one of you must be a baptized Catholic **and** a registered member of our parish. If you meet these basic requirements, you can move on to the next section (Officiant).

If **either** of you are not 18, you will need the written consent of your parents to be married at St. Mary's. If you are related by blood, a form will be given to you to fill out before proceeding any further with your plans.

Because the Catholic Church recognizes most marriages as valid, **any** previous marriage(s) of either party, regardless of religion, will need to be formally annulled through the Catholic Church **before** you can arrange your marriage to each other here or at any other Catholic parish or institution. The only exception to this is when a baptized Catholic was married outside of the Catholic Church **without a formal dispensation** granted by the local bishop. In this case, a much simpler process will enable you to proceed with your plans. If you have any questions regarding the validity of any previous marriage, please contact the parish office immediately.

If neither party is a registered member of St. Mary's at the time of inquiry but all other requirements are met, your wedding can be celebrated here but the church fee is higher.

OFFICIANT

You may request any priest or deacon assigned to St. Mary's to meet with you and celebrate your wedding, dependent, of course, upon his availability on the date you will be requesting.

You are also welcome to invite any validly ordained Catholic priest or deacon from another parish, diocese, or institution, such as a relative or family friend, to either officiate or concelebrate with a priest or deacon from St. Mary's. Clergy from outside the Diocese of Camden must forward to St. Mary a formal Letter of Suitability obtained from their own superior in advance of the wedding and forwarded to the parish.

You will, however, need to meet first with a priest or deacon from St. Mary's to make initial arrangements, as will be explained below.

If either party is not Catholic, you are welcome to invite a minister of your faith community to participate in your wedding celebration. However, your vows must be received by a Catholic priest or deacon if the wedding is to take place in a Catholic Church* (see notes below).

***Please note:** non-Catholics do NOT have to convert to Catholicism to be married in a Catholic Church ceremony; nor are they required to promise to raise any children born of the marriage as Catholics. Catholic parties, however, have the responsibility of sharing their Catholic faith with their children and, if the non-Catholic party has no objection, to raise their children in the Catholic faith.*

DAY/TIME/PLACE

Weddings can be celebrated at St. Mary's any day of the week **except Sunday**. On **Saturday**, the **latest** a wedding can begin is **2:30 PM**, and the Church must be vacated by **4:00 PM** for the start of Confessions. There is no time restriction Monday-Friday, except Friday evenings in **Lent**, when the Church must be vacated by **6:45 PM** for the start of Stations of the Cross.

*Catholic weddings can only take place in a church building, as Catholic clergy are forbidden to officiate at weddings anywhere else. Exceptions to this, however, are made in the case of a Catholic marrying someone of the Jewish, Muslim, or other non-Christian faith.

*Catholics may marry validly outside of a Catholic Church with a special dispensation (permission) from their Bishop. To obtain this, the couple must participate in the regular preparation process outlined in these guidelines. The priest/deacon working with you will apply for this and any other dispensation you may need.

PROCESS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples wishing to marry in the Catholic Church are required to participate in a formal program designed to help prepare you for a life-long, *sacramental* commitment. Included in this are 3 meetings with your Officiant to obtain necessary information, review the process, explore the sacramental dimensions of Christian marriage, and plan the elements of your ceremony. If your Officiant is **not** from St. Mary, you will schedule your second and third meetings with him.

Your Officiant may request that you fill out a *FOCCUS* questionnaire, designed to help you explore your strengths and challenges as individuals and as a couple.

You are also required to participate in meetings to explore marriage as a lived reality and those issues that impact marital relationships. Please contact Deacon Bob Scarpa.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Nothing is required at this time. At your first meeting with a priest/deacon the documents you will need and when they must be supplied will be explained.

MUSIC FOR YOUR CEREMONY

Regardless of who you plan to provide music for your wedding, you will need to contact our **Director of Music, Mr. Jim Rabic**, who will work closely with you and advise you of the options available to you. Please note that secular music is not permitted in a Catholic liturgy.

FEES

The fee for **registered** members of St. Mary's is **\$500**. For non-members the fee is **\$800**. You must already be registered at the time you inquire about getting married at St. Mary's to qualify for the lower fee. This fee is **not** a gift for your Officiant. It covers expenses associated with your wedding and to support the mission of our parish. It is to be submitted to the parish office no later than one month before the wedding is to be celebrated.

Fees for the instrumentalist and vocalist are **\$175 each**. The music director will advise when these need to be paid.

There is no fee for your Officiant or Altar Servers, though a gift to each is customary.