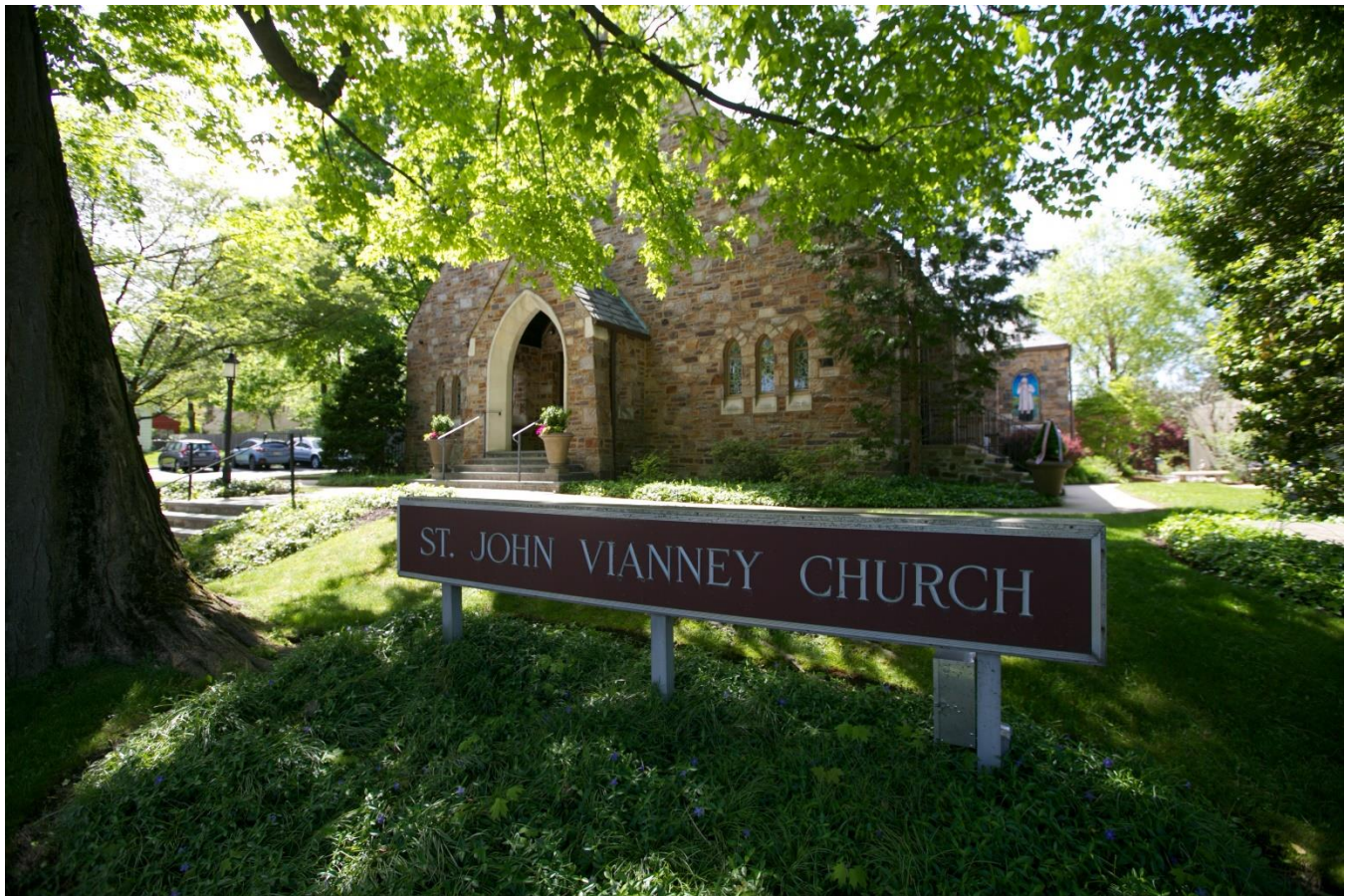




# Saint John Vianney Church

Gladwyne, Pennsylvania

## Holy Matrimony Booklet



Church: 350 Conshohocken State Road  
Parish Offices: 1110 Vaughan Lane  
Gladwyne, PA 19035

Phone: 610-642-0938  
Fax: 610-642-1432  
[www.sjvgladwyne.com](http://www.sjvgladwyne.com)





# Saint John Vianney Church

Gladwyne, Pennsylvania

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your engagement to be married!

We are happy to share your joy as you prepare for your new married life together. The coming months and weeks of your engagement period is a very special, indeed a sacred time, for you to grow together in many and various ways.

During this time of your engagement, you will have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and love for one another. In addition, our preparations will allow you to increase your understanding of Christian marriage along with its nature, duties, joys, and challenges. You are preparing not only a beautiful celebration of your marriage vows, but also for a beautiful life together.

Our parish community of Saint John Vianney Parish is happy to welcome you both and to assist you as you prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Marriage is a most serious and sacred commitment. The Sacrament of Marriage is a sacrament instituted by Christ and entrusted to His Church which confers grace upon the couple. Marriage is a covenant between a husband and wife which is permanent, faithful, unitive, and fruitful.

We have prepared the following Marriage Preparation kit along with this booklet and other material to assist you. We hope that the following information helps you as you plan for a beautiful wedding day and a fruitful marriage.

Please know that we are here to assist you. Kindly contact us with any of your questions or concerns. Finally, be assured of our accompanying prayers that God continue to bless you abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. William G. Donovan*

Rev. William G. Donovan, Pastor



Dear Engaged Couple,

Your engagement period is a time of preparation; the Church encourages you to use this time to prepare for a lifelong marriage.

Couples who are seeking to marry should value their engagement period as a special time to grow in love and knowledge of one another and of God.

We are pleased to offer the following information about things which need to be accomplished over your engagement period.

1. The Couple's Initial Meeting with the Pastor: At least 6 months prior to proposed wedding

The couple must schedule a first meeting with the pastor at least 6 months prior to the proposed marriage date.

The Archdiocesan policy of a minimum of six months is designed to allow sufficient time for a couple to have an informative and fruitful period of preparation.

At that first meeting, the wedding couple will receive information necessary for planning the celebration of marriage.

2. Couple's Completion of Marriage Registration Forms

This Marriage Registration Form captures general and sacramental information about the couple.

### 3. Pre-Cana Class for the Couple

The couple should plan to attend a Marital Preparatory Class (often referred to as “Pre-Cana course”) as soon as practical. The Pre-Cana class is designed to help prepare the couple for typical and ordinary matters and challenges which each marital relationship encounters.

Generally, topics like the importance of communications skills, healthy habits to address financial concerns, the beauty and dignity of God’s gift of human sexuality, and the spirituality of marriage are presented and discussed by several happily married couples.

There are many locations throughout the archdiocese where the couple could arrange to enroll and attend the Pre-Cana classes. Consult the Archdiocesan webpage (<http://phillycatholicmarriageprep.com>) or local parishes for local programs for marriage prep.

### 4. Pre-Nuptial Investigation (PNI) of the Couple

One of the requirements includes a meeting between the pastor and the couple to obtain information under oath from each party to ensure that they have proper knowledge and freedom to contract marriage.

### 5. Key Necessary Documents

There are several documents which are necessary.

#### a. Baptism Certificate of Groom (if baptized)

b. Baptismal Certificate of the Bride (if baptized).

The Baptismal certificate (from the church or place where the candidate was baptized) should be dated within six months of the proposed marriage. We are not interested in the original document of Baptism; but a new certificate from the church where the party was baptized indicating that the party was baptized at that Church.

See section below for mixed marriage (Marriage between persons of different faiths).

Kindly send Baptismal certificates to the Parish Offices at least four months before the proposed wedding date.

c. Two Witnesses Testimony for Groom

d. Two Witnesses Testimony for Bride

For each party (bride and groom) preparing for marriage, there needs to be two witnesses who can assert in the witness form that the witness knows the party, that the party is who they say they are, and that the party is free to marry.

The two witness affidavits (for each bride and groom) are required to be completed by someone who knows you well.

There are four witness documents (two for bride and two for groom) in this Marriage Planning kit. Kindly return the completed witness forms to the Parish Office three months prior to the proposed wedding date.



e. Pastor's Permission

Your Pastor has the sacred duty for overseeing the spiritual well-being of all parishioners of his parish. Along with that spiritual obligation, the Pastor has the corresponding right to baptize, marry, and bury his parishioners.

Accordingly, if one is being married outside of your home parish, it is necessary for you to obtain your Pastor's permission to marry outside your home parish.

This letter (of the Pastor's permission) can be obtained by calling your home parish and asking for a letter of permission to marry at Saint John Vianney Church.

f. Complete Liturgy Planning Sheet

Enclosed in your planning material you will find a liturgy planning booklet entitled "Together For Life."

The booklet will offer you various options from which you shall make selections, such as readings and prayers.

You will be asked to summarize your selections for the liturgy on the summary sheet (which is can be torn out of the last page of the pamphlet "Together For Life").

Kindly complete the Liturgy Planning Sheet and return it to the Parish offices three months before the wedding.



g. Couple's Meeting with Our Parish Director of Sacred Music

Music for your wedding is to be liturgical/sacred in nature and in keeping with the traditions and norms of the Roman Catholic Church.

Please contact Dr. Cara Latham, SJV Parish Director of Sacred Music, [clatham@sjvgladwyne.com](mailto:clatham@sjvgladwyne.com) at least three months prior to your wedding to discuss and plan the music for your wedding ceremony.

If you wish to employ another organist, a bench fee is paid to the Director of Sacred Music.

h. Marriage License from the State of Pennsylvania

This is an extremely important document that must be submitted to the Parish Offices at least two weeks prior to the marriage.

There can be no celebration of the marriage without the civil license.

While the priest acts as both the witness for the ecclesiastical effects and civil effects of marriage, it is illegal to have marriage ceremony without a civil license.

The couple can contact the county (Montgomery County Orphan's Court for the necessary license to marry).

## 6. Rehearsal

To prepare for your wedding day celebration with dignity, joy and reverence, a rehearsal of the ceremony is scheduled with the pastor.

The rehearsal is generally held on Thursdays or Fridays at 4:00 PM or 5:00 PM. Generally, rehearsals are about 30-40 minutes in length. Kindly schedule and confirm your rehearsal time and date with Parish Offices.

## 7. Fees

It is important to note that there is never a charge for any sacramental preparation or celebration.

That said, we do have paid employees who care for the church and its grounds, especially before and after sacramental events such as your wedding.

In addition, our beautiful church must meet annual utilities bills and maintenance costs exceeding \$150,000.

We ask you to be considerate of those expenses and help us to defray costs by contributing \$1,400.

It is also customary to provide stipends for the priest usually in the amount equal to that of the organist.

Please also consider a cash gift of \$20.00 for each altar server.

Church Wedding Coordinator Fee: \$225.

Professional Musicians' Fees: Organist \$400; Cantor \$400; Bench Fee \$150. Additional instrumental can be added, such as violin, timpani, trumpet, flute, or another musical instrument. The fee is \$350 for each additional instrument.

All fees are to be paid one month prior to wedding. Kindly submit offering to the Parish Offices.

## 8. Practical Matters

- a. Floral arrangements, in virtue of their use at the altar, are a sacrificial gift to God and therefore must be left as an offering in the sanctuary of the Church after the ceremony. Thus, flowers consecrated to the Lord cannot be removed and used for secular purposes. Flowers as gifts to God must be fresh, not artificial.
- b. Photography and videography are permitted during the ceremony provided that the photographer and videographer are discreet and remain outside the sanctuary.
- c. Candles and aisle runners at the end of the pews can present tripping and fire hazards. For the safety of all, neither is permitted.
- d. Rice and confetti cause a real danger and grave inconvenience. Please ask your guests not to throw them.
- e. Alcoholic beverages of any kind are not permitted on church property. The bride and groom along with the best man and maid or matron of honor must have complete competencies to contract and witness marriage. Therefore, neither the

bride nor the groom nor the two witnesses may take alcohol on the day of the wedding prior to the celebration. Doing so would risk the immediate cancellation of the wedding as per the priest's judgement of the couple impaired by alcohol or other substances and unable to make a free and reasonable act.

f. About the Church

The Church is located at 350 Conshohocken State Road, Gladwyne, PA.

The rectory and parish offices are located at 1110 Vaughan Lane, Gladwyne, PA 19035 (about 300 yards East down Route 23 from the Church).

The Church has 34 pews; the center aisle separates two sides of the church with 17 pews on each side.

Generally between 8 and 10 people can be seated comfortably in each pew (except the first pew on the Blessed Virgin Mary side which can accommodate only four persons along with a disabled section).

The length of the main aisle of the church is 57'4".

## **Our Parish Locations:**

Saint John Vianney Church (**The Church**)

350 Conshohocken State Road

Gladwyne, PA 19035

Saint John Vianney Parish Offices (**The Parish Offices**)

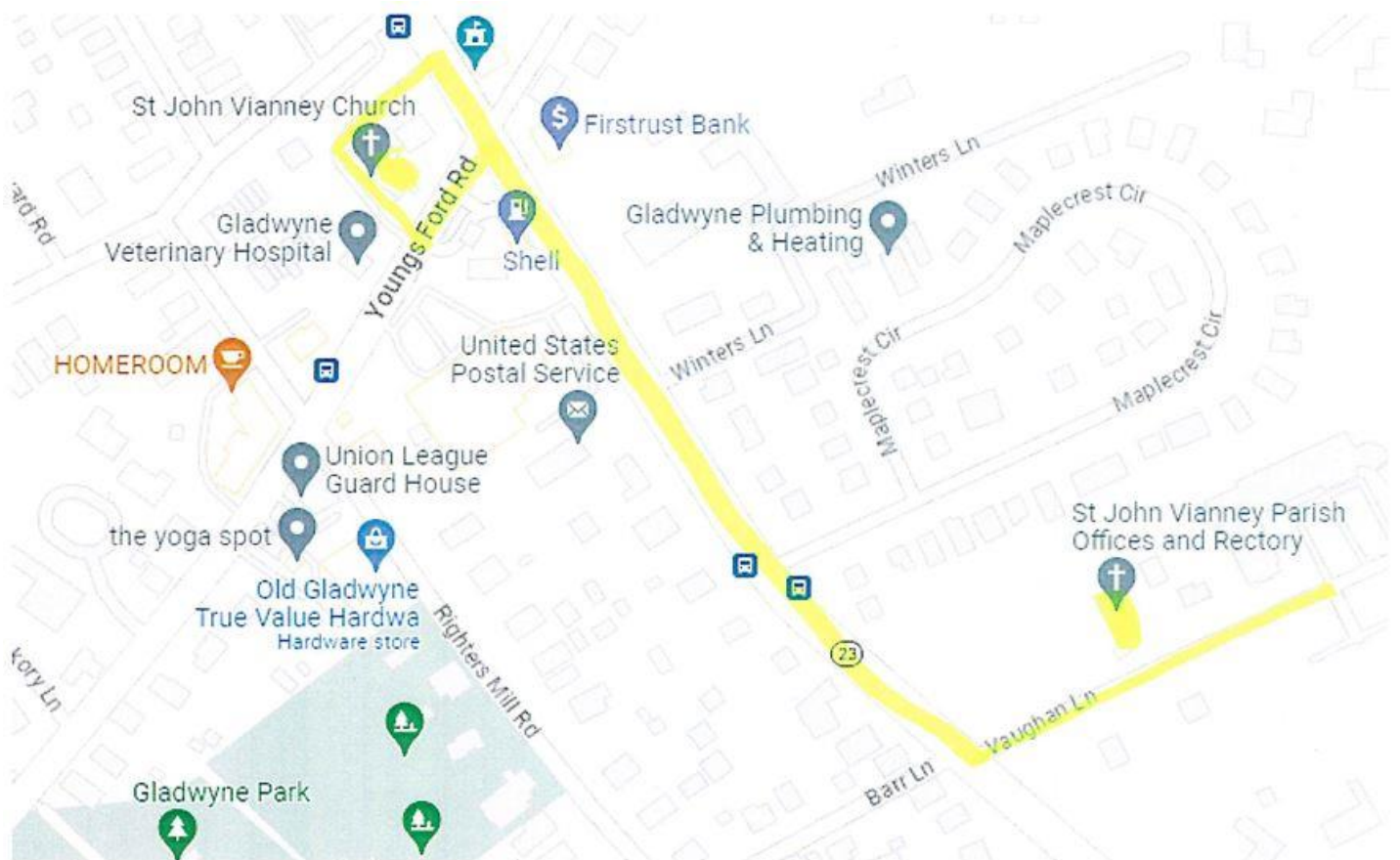
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## Wedding Preparation Timeline Checklist

- Couple's Initial Meeting with the Parish priest to confirm a wedding date. Minimum of 6 months before proposed wedding date
- Schedule and attend an Archdiocesan-sponsored marriage preparation course. Please consult <http://phillycatholicmarriageprep.com/> to register and schedule your class attendance.

Six – Twelve months before your wedding

### Six months before your wedding

- Baptismal certificates issued from the parish of your baptism, with parish seal, *dated within 6 months of the date of your wedding*;
- Four signed witness testimonies which attest to the freedom of each party to marry (two for each person);

Six to four months before your wedding

Six to three months before your wedding

- Letters of permission to marry from the pastor of the parish where you are registered (only if not a parishioners of Saint John Vianney Parish);

Six to four months before your wedding

- Pre-Nuptial Investigation (PNI) which will be conducted in the presence of the priest;

Six to three months before your wedding

- Certificate of completion of Pre-Cana marriage preparation course;

Four to three months before your wedding

- Applications for Marriage dispensations or permissions, if necessary (in cases of a non-Catholic person, formerly married, etc.)

Six to Five months before your wedding

The originals of all paperwork should be sent to Parish Offices at [parishoffices@sjvgladwyne.com](mailto:parishoffices@sjvgladwyne.com).

Please keep a copy of all files for your records.

### Three months before your wedding

- Contact Dr. Cara Latham, *Director of Sacred Music*, to plan sacred music & hymns for the wedding liturgy. ([clatham@sjvgladwyne.com](mailto:clatham@sjvgladwyne.com))
- Complete the Liturgy Planning Sheet from “Together for Life” and return it to the parish office and submit to Parish.
- Confirm with parish priest that all paperwork, documents, and preparations are completed.

### One month before your wedding

- Obtain a Civil Marriage License from the State of Pennsylvania (no earlier than 60 days before the wedding date and no later than one week before) and bring to Parish Office.
- Pay all wedding fees to the parish office one month prior to wedding.
- Celebrate rehearsal date.



## **General Information on Marriage between spouses of different faith traditions**

There are three categories of marriages according to different faith traditions: (1) Marriage between two Catholic parties; (2) Marriage between one Catholic party and one non-Catholic Christian party; (3) Marriage between one Catholic party and one non-Christian, non-Catholic party.

The marriage ceremony is slightly different for each of the above three types of marriages. In addition, there are a few different requirements (documents) for each type of the three marriages discussed above.

The following is more detailed explanation of requirements necessary for each type of marriage.

### **(1) Marriage between a Catholic party and another Catholic.**

Baptismal certificates within six months of both Catholics must be requested from the Church where they were baptized.

Baptismal certificates within six months of both Catholics must be requested from the Church where they were baptized.

In this instance, the Catholic couple must be married in Catholic Church with a Nuptial mass (including Liturgy of Word, the Rite of Marriage, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist).

About 70% of Catholics marry other Catholics.

(2) Marriage between one Catholic party and one Christian non-Catholic party.

This marriage is often referred to as a Mixed Marriage. Examples of Christian non-Catholic would include Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, etc. In this instance, the Catholic party must obtain his/her Baptismal certificate within six months of the proposed married date from the Church where he/she was baptized.

The non-Catholic Christian party must obtain only the baptismal document, which certifies that the party was baptized. The name of the place and date of baptism is required for the non-Catholic Christian.

A request for permission to marry the *non*-Catholic must be submitted by the priest on behalf of the Catholic party, who promises to remain faithful to his/her Catholic faith and make effort to raise their children in the Catholic faith. The non-Catholic party is made aware of this promise by the Catholic party. This application for permission to marry a non-Catholic is signed by the Catholic party, in the presence of the priest and the non-Catholic party and the request is submitted to the Archbishop.

Generally, the marriage ceremony for a Catholic and a non-Catholic Christian consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage. There is generally no shared Liturgy of the Eucharist.

About 28% of Catholics marry non-Catholic Christians.

(3) Marriage between a Catholic party and a non-Catholic non-Christian.

In this instance, the Catholic party must obtain his/her Baptismal certificate within six months of the proposed married date from the Church where he/she was baptized.

A request for a Dispensation to marry the non-Catholic non-Christian must be submitted by the priest on behalf of the Catholic party, who promises to remain faithful to his/her Catholic faith and make effort to raise their children in the Catholic faith. The non-Catholic non-Christian party is made aware of this promise by the Catholic party. This application for Dispensation to marry a non-Catholic is signed by the Catholic party, in the presence of the priest and the non-Catholic party, and the request is submitted to the Archbishop.

Generally, the Marriage ceremony is simply the Rite of Marriage. The Liturgy of Word and the Liturgy of Eucharist is generally not part of the celebration between Catholic party and a non-Catholic non-Christian party.

About 2% of Catholics marry non-Christian non-Catholics (viz., Muslim, Jew, Buddhist, Hindu, et al).

Heavenly Father,  
as we prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage,  
we seek your blessing.

We thank you for bringing us together  
and guiding us this far.

Open our hearts to know more fully  
your desire for us and guide those  
who are forming us.

May we look to Christ  
as a model for our love,  
cherishing and respecting each other  
as he taught us.

And may your Holy Spirit lead us  
to deeper intimacy with you and each other  
that we might approach our wedding day  
with confidence and grace.

Amen.

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*Saint John Vianney Parish*



*Gladwyne, PA*  
*Established 1927*