



Enter into the joy of the Lord.

Each year, around the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Sebastian, Woodside hosts a special “Group Wedding” ceremony for couples who are in a civil marriage or who are living together without benefit of marriage. This is an opportunity for couples to regularize their relationship with the Church and receive the Sacrament of Matrimony and once again be able to receive Holy Communion. Above and beyond all reasons for encouraging the reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony is our wish that they could once again receive the sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist – the Source and Summit of the Christian Life.

What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about marriage?

CCC1604 – “God who created man out of love also calls him to love the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: "and God blessed them, and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.'”

This special opportunity is provided only for those who may not be able to afford to have their own individual Church wedding and to those who wish to have a simple yet prayerful ceremony.

How do you get started with the process?

1. Make an appointment to see the pastor. Please mention that you

would like to join the Group Wedding.

2. Have a copy of both husband and wife’s Baptismal Certificate issued within the last 6 months. This may be done after the initial meeting with the pastor.

Group Wedding Guidelines:

1. Brides need not wear a wedding gown but shall be properly attired as befits the reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony in Church.
2. Bride and Groom will walk together down the aisle.
3. Only two sponsors are allowed to walk behind each couple.
4. There is to be no entourage; i.e., bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls, ring bearer, etc.
5. No professional/commercial photographer(s) allowed. Twin Hearts Ministry, which sponsors this ceremony, has a very able photographer who will take pictures free of charge.
6. No aisle runner is permitted. However, the Ministry shall put

in pew decorations and make sure that fresh flowers adorn the Sanctuary.

7. There is a small reception that follows the church ceremony courtesy of the Twin Hearts Ministry. If couples wish to contribute, Twin Hearts Ministry welcomes any food donation which would be shared with everyone at the reception.
8. Twin Hearts Ministry members will meet and greet the couples two months before the wedding.
9. If the bride wishes, Twin Hearts Ministry can also provide someone to make the bouquet at cost of material [around \$20-\$25]. This shall include the groom's boutonniere.
10. The Twin Hearts Ministry's aim is to allow couples to receive the sacrament of matrimony without the excessive fuss and financial expense of the modern wedding. Thus, limos, professional / commercial photographers and videographers, are not in keeping with the spirit of the Group Wedding and are prohibited.

Who is eligible?

- At least one of the parties must be a baptized Roman Catholic.
- Both parties must be free to marry.
- If either or both have been married previously in a Catholic ceremony they must secure an annulment unless the spouse(s) is deceased

NOTES:



twin hearts ministry

St. Sebastian R.C. Church – Woodside

Rectory – 39-63 57th Street
Woodside, NY 11377

For Appointment, please call

Ms. Anna Cremin

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(718) 429-4442