



Marriage Preparation Materials

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage and thank you for choosing St. Anthony. We developed this packet to assist you with your preparation for your celebration at our parish. May God bless you and grant you many happy years together!

Please call St. Anthony Church at least **six** months prior to the desired date of your marriage and schedule your wedding date (Weddings are normally scheduled on Friday evening or Saturday with a start time prior to 6:30 p.m.). This will improve your chance of getting the date you request and you will have the time to take care of all the necessary preparations. Marta Misleh, regional wedding coordinator, will then contact you within a couple weeks about the marriage preparation classes that you will need to take.

Sacramental Preparation involves the following things which should be begun at least six months prior to your wedding date:

- 1) A certified copy of your Baptismal Certificate is required. Please contact the church of your baptism to have a current record sent to you.
- 2) FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory (an aid for marriage preparation) - Please contact Marta Misleh at (513) 871-5757 ext. 207, mmisleh@stceciliacincinnati.org to set this up.
- 3) 2-3 meetings with the priest who will witness your marriage vows.
- 4) Attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend (www.cincinnatiengagedencounter.org). This is to be done as soon as possible.
- 5) Attend a National Family Planning program (www.ccli.org).

Marta will also be available to answer any questions you may have about the above.

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator:

St. Anthony's administrative assistant will assign you a wedding liturgy coordinator from our Parish who is expected to be present for the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. They will be the main contact person for you and will be available to assist you throughout the preparation of the ceremony. Their contact info will be provided to you once they are assigned. Our wedding liturgy coordinator is the only one who will deal with unlocking and locking our church and other facilities. Florists will need to be in contact with them. If you intend to have an additional wedding coordinator, you should inform us beforehand.

Liturgy and Music:

You are responsible for arrangements with the musician(s). Each musician and vocalist is entitled to a stipend for their services, which include one planning meeting and attending the wedding rehearsal. Musician fees are included in the wedding fee (see Contributions for the use of the church by parishioners, further down).

The wedding liturgy should follow the norms of the parish and include music that is approved and acceptable for use during Catholic liturgies in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The celebrant and musician will also assist you in your liturgy planning.

Rehearsal:

The rehearsal normally takes one hour and can be scheduled on the night before the wedding liturgy beginning any time between 5 pm and 7 pm. **Please remember to schedule this as you set the time and date for the liturgy.** Please ask the members of your bridal party to be on time. You should invite anyone with a speaking part to attend, as well as those who are serving as ministers, including Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, etc., so they have a chance to practice.

Photographs and video recordings:

To preserve the prayerfulness of your wedding liturgy, no one may take flash pictures once the celebration has begun. Your photographer may use a flash during the procession, while non-flash photographs and videos during the celebration should be taken from the balcony or in the areas previously agreed upon with the presiding priest. Your photographer/videographer will need to contact the church at (513) 271-0920, ext. 101, at least 30 days prior to your wedding to review these guidelines with the parish staff and gain a better understanding of their role in the liturgy. **Please include a note in the wedding program requesting guests to refrain from taking flash photographs during the ceremony.**

All pre-wedding photography in the church can begin one hour prior to the scheduled wedding time and must conclude 30 minutes before the start of the wedding. Post-wedding photography must conclude 45 minutes after the end of the ceremony.

Flowers and Decorations:

Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary area, and they are usually placed in front of the altar (not on the altar) and/or ambo (from which the Scriptures are read). Please use ribbons looped over the back of the pews for floral arrangements in the aisle. Do not use tape or tacks. **You may not affix anything to church furnishings, fixtures or doors.** Contact the wedding liturgy coordinator if you wish to place flowers on the outside of the church.

Christmas decorations in the church are not set up until after the Masses on the 4th Sunday of Advent and are removed immediately after the Solemnity of the Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord. The Advent Wreath with candles is to the right of the ambo. During the Easter Season, and possibly Pentecost, there are banners hanging throughout the church by the stained-glass windows. Banners and the wreath should not be disturbed in any way, since they are difficult to put up.

Candles:

The unity candle is not a Catholic liturgical symbol and is not used during your marriage ceremony. It is suggested that the use of these candles be at your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception.

Practical Information About the Church Building:

Length of the aisle in St. Anthony Church is 65 feet 7 inches from the steps of the sanctuary to the marble Holy Water font in the back of the church. You are permitted to use aisle runners. There is a total of 36 pews in the main body of the church, two rows of 18. The posted church capacity is 410 in the main body and 49 in the balcony. Our church is air-conditioned. We can reserve immediate parking for those people with disabilities on the street nearest the wheelchair ramp – **if necessary, please make this request to the wedding liturgy coordinator in advance.**

There is very little space available for dressing in the church. The Rectory next door to the church may be used for waiting/dressing space. **If you wish to use this facility on the day of your wedding, prior arrangements must be made.** Please remember to schedule the space you want to use at the same time you set your wedding and rehearsal date/time.

Set-up and Clean-up:

St. Anthony Church does not employ a maintenance person - someone to assist you with either the set-up or clean up. Volunteers care for our church, which means the families from St. Anthony Parish clean the church before and following our celebrations. Please arrange the same following your wedding celebration. **The dropping of rose petals by a flower girl or the throwing of rice or bird seed as the newlyweds exit the church are not allowed.**

Liturgical Ministers:

Readers are usually selected from the family or friends of the couple. We recommend they are either experienced Lectors or public speakers. **Readers are expected to attend the rehearsal.** Servers are usually selected from the family or friends of the couple. We recommend they have experience. A parish altar server can be requested if you do not know someone. Eucharistic Ministers are usually selected from family or friends of the couple. They should be commissioned ministers in their home parish.

Marriage License:

You are responsible for obtaining a license valid in Hamilton County. It should be given to the celebrant of your wedding at the time of your rehearsal.

Contribution for the use of the church by parishioners:

St. Anthony Church asks \$425 for the use of its church from parishioners. Your contribution covers the cost of maintenance for the building, utilities, time for the rehearsal, time on the wedding day, the music liturgy, and the wedding liturgy coordinator. Our pastor does not expect or keep any stipend. A priest from outside the parish, secured by the couple, may need to be compensated for his services.

Weddings for Non-Parishioners:

Our church is also available for use by those who are not registered members of our Parish community who wish to be married in the Catholic Church, but for some reason cannot be married in their home parish. All items in this document are applicable to non-parishioners, as well as parishioners. The only celebrations permitted are the Roman Catholic Rite of Marriage, within or outside of Mass.

You are responsible for arranging to have a priest/deacon officiate at the wedding. Marriage preparation for non-parishioners must be complete by the pastor of the couple's home parish. Visiting clergy will be expected to abide by all the guidelines outlined in this document.

Papal Blessings:

If you are interested, you may arrange for a Papal blessing. The fee of \$81.00 includes shipping. It will take 4 to 6 weeks. The request must be made on our Parish letterhead and acknowledge that those being married are active parishioners. It should include the occasion, date and names of the couple. Mail the request to Meyer Vogelpohl, 10311 Julian Drive, Cincinnati OH 45215. (513) 241-1535.

Contact Information

Fr. Jamie Weber

Pastor
(513) 871-5757, ext. 201
jweber@eastsideregion.org

Parish Office

Phone: (513) 271-0920
Fax: (513) 271-6630