

## WEDDING GUIDELINES AT ASSUMPTION PARISH

### PREPARATION:

1. Diocesan Law requires a minimum preparation time of 6 months. During this time, the couple is encouraged to register and become active members to be qualified for **active-member** church fee.
2. The couple **MUST** meet with the priest before a wedding date can be reserved. If either person has had a previous marriage, **NO DATE** will be set until the Tribunal process has been completed.
3. Preparation will take the couple at least two sessions with the priest for a Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI) exam and other marriage paperwork.
4. Then, the couple is **REQUIRED** to take a Marriage Preparation Program (e.g. Pre-Cana, Engaged Encounter, Sponsor Couple, or Cana II). Inter-faith couple is encouraged to take an ecumenical marriage seminar whenever possible.
5. The couple is to provide recent baptismal certificates (issued within 6 months) and marriage license (acquired at County Clerk Office a month prior to the wedding) to the priest **at least a week before the wedding**.
6. The wedding ceremony may be planned for any day except Sunday, Holy Days, and the days of Holy Week. Weddings are discouraged during Lent.

### FACILITIES:

1. The bride and bridesmaids may use the “Scrip/Emergency” to dress while the groom and groomsmen may go to the “Quiet Room”. Please restore those rooms to their original condition after usage. **Pictures must be done and the church must be cleared about 3:30 PM** due to other church services.
2. The parish will provide a unity candle stand. However, the couple needs to get their own candles. Protective cloth should be used under any candles for the wedding in order to catch drippings. **NO** candles in the aisles.
3. Aisle runners (46ft) may be used. Pew bows or any pew decorations are not to be attached by tape or wire. Pew candles must have a way to catch drippings.
4. The placement and arrangement of flowers must not interfere with the movements of the ceremony. **NO** flowers are to be placed right on the altar. **NO** moving of the existing signs and objects of the church is permitted.

5. Photos during the ceremony should not disturb the reverence of the service. NO videotaping or photographing from the sanctuary area is permitted. **All photography must be done about 3:30 PM** due to other church services.
6. NO throwing of rice, birdseed, etc. is permitted inside church. Smoking, drinking and eating are NOT allowed in the church due to the sacredness of the setting. However, you may eat and drink in the lower part of the church or Activity Rm.
7. The rehearsal is usually 6 or 7 o'clock on the evening before the wedding. The Church will be opened 3 hours prior to the wedding (10 AM on Saturday). Call Margaret Ten Eyck at **364-1976** if there are other questions.

### **CEREMONY:**

1. A booklet of Scripture readings and prayers of the faithful is provided to the couple. The couple must choose a gospel, but has the option of picking one or two Scripture readings for the ceremony. Readings/ poetry may NOT replace the Scripture readings. Families and friends are encouraged to take part in reading and serving at the ceremony.
2. Two witnesses, a man and a woman, who are at least 14 years of age are required.
3. Marriage between 2 Catholics usually takes place within the context of the Mass. A marriage between a Catholic and a Christian/ non-Christian is often celebrated outside of the Mass for the comfort of the non-Catholic party.
4. Holy Communion is open ONLY to Catholics.

### **MUSIC:**

All music selected shall be of a sacred nature befitting the church ceremony and must be approved by the parish. Please call music director regarding questions:

Music Director: Lori Jacob (361-5126 x230) or email [missloriv@aol.com](mailto:missloriv@aol.com).

### **FEES:**

Church: \$160(**active member** for at least 6 months); \$390(**inactive/ non-member**)  
Organist (including vocalist): \$200                      Vocalist: \$80

**Church fee and music fee should be turned in to the parish office with the marriage license at least one week before the wedding.** Any question, please call the priest at **616-361-5126 ext. 201**. Fax: 361-5503.