

Church of the Assumption
61 North Cliff Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

WEDDING INFORMATION

Congratulations and best wishes on your upcoming wedding. We at the Church of the Assumption hope to help you make your wedding day most memorable and enjoyable. To assist you in your planning, we offer the following information.

Booking your Wedding: Once you have decided to marry, you should call Fr. Condron (203.735.7857x10) to book the date and time for your wedding ceremony. This should be done before you complete your arrangements with your reception facility, band, florist, etc. Perhaps the day and time you would like is not available with the Church. You should call to book your wedding as early as possible, but not later than six months in advance.

Day and Time: Usually, weddings take place on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings, although other times are possible. The latest a wedding may begin on a Saturday is 1:00 pm. No weddings are permitted after the Saturday Vigil Mass or any time on Sunday. Also no weddings are permitted on holydays of obligation (either the vigil or the day itself) or national holidays.

Visiting Priest or Deacon: You are most welcome to have a visiting priest or deacon (perhaps a relative or friend) officiate at your wedding ceremony. Please tell Fr. Condron when you book your wedding. It is necessary to decide at this time who will lead you through the steps required to enter into marriage in the Catholic Church.

Documents: At a meeting with the person who is preparing you for your marriage, you will need to make the following documents available. **(Please do not drop these documents off at the rectory; bring them to the meeting with you.)**

- A copy of your baptismal certificate.
 - For Catholics, this must be issued by the church in which your baptism took place and dated within the last six months. Simply call the church where your baptism took place and ask for a copy of your baptismal certificate. Either pick up the certificate or have it mailed to you. Do not have it mailed to the Assumption Rectory.
 - For other Christians, any copy of a baptismal certificate is sufficient.
- For Catholics, a copy of your First Communion and Confirmation certificates. If you do not have a copy, again simply call the church where you received each of these sacraments and request a copy to be sent to you.
- If you received Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation at the Church of the Assumption, that record is here and you do not have to request it.
- If either or both parties have been married before, the certificate of marriage, the decree of divorce, and the decree of annulment (if applicable).

Engaged Couples Conference: Once you have booked your wedding you will be asked to attend an Engaged Couples Conference offered by the Archdiocese of Hartford. It is recommended you go online to the Archdiocese's Family Life Office (hartfordflo.org) to view the times and places of these conferences and to arrange to attend one.

F.A.C.E.T.: All engaged couples are required to take F.A.C.E.T. The person preparing you for your wedding will explain this tool to you and give you the necessary materials.

Witnesses: The witnesses of your marriage (best man and maid/matron of honor) may be Catholic or non-Catholic.

Music: All arrangements for music at your wedding are to be made through the Director of Music, Anthony Burke. You may contact him at his office (203.735.7857x29) or simply by seeing him in the organ loft after any 4:00 pm Saturday Mass (no appointment necessary). Arrangements must be made with Mr. Burke concerning selection of music, singers, and instrumentalists.

Mr. Burke's fees are as follows:

- For consultation and playing at your wedding: \$300.00
- For each rehearsal with any singers or instrumentalist: \$100.00
- For coming to the wedding rehearsal: \$100.00

The fees for any additional musicians, singers, etc. are to be paid by you directly to them.

If you decide not to use Mr. Burke's services, his fee must still be paid. This is the policy of the American Guild of Organists to which the church subscribes

Please remember that you are being married in a Christian setting. When you select music, it must express the beliefs of a Christian. Therefore, only religious music is allowed at the wedding ceremony. Mr. Burke is happy to discuss and suggest several musical possibilities with you at the time of your consultation with him.

Ceremony: You have an opportunity as a couple to design the religious celebration of your marriage by choosing the prayers, the readings, etc. that will be used during the ceremony. To help you with this, you will be given a copy of Together for Life. You should fill out the tear-out form in the back of this book. The person who is preparing you for your marriage will guide you in the process. This form should be given to the person doing your wedding rehearsal.

Unity Candle: Some couples like the use of a unity candle, although this is completely optional. It is up to the couple to provide the candle and it should be given to the person conducting your rehearsal.

License: A wedding license must be obtained from the town clerk of any town in the State of Connecticut no more than ninety days before your wedding. This license should be given to the person doing your rehearsal.

Rehearsal: A rehearsal should be scheduled with the person preparing you for your marriage. Please encourage all the members of your wedding party to be on time for the rehearsal. The rehearsal is usually the evening before your wedding, although other times are possible.

The following items should be given to the person doing your rehearsal:

- The marriage license
- The unity candle (if there is one to be used)
- The page from Together for Life containing the choices of prayers, readings, etc. you have made for the ceremony
- The fee(s) for Mr. Burke
- The fee for the Church (see below).

Wedding Day: It is asked that the groom and particularly the bride be on time for the ceremony. It is rude to keep your guests waiting. Please, no alcoholic beverages at this time by any member of the wedding party. Please inform your wedding party there is to be no drinking in front of the church either before or after the ceremony. The policy of the church is that rice, confetti, bird seed, rose petals, etc. may not be thrown. Please inform your guests.

Flowers: Your wedding takes place not only within the Church of the Assumption but also within the liturgical year. Use of flowers must fit in with decorations appropriate to the liturgical season. For examples, the decorations for a particular season (e.g., poinsettia at Christmas, lilies for Easter, reddish purple banners for Lent, deep purple banners during Advent, white banners during Easter, etc.) cannot be removed for your ceremony nor can flowers be added during Lent. Please keep this in mind when ordering flowers.

Aisle Runner: If you would like to use an aisle runner, it is usually provided by the florist. The aisle is 75 feet long.

Pictures and Videotaping: Photographing and videotaping your wedding are permitted as long as they do not interfere with the integrity of the ceremony. This means photographers or videotape persons are not to be in the sanctuary or moving about the front of the church during the ceremony. Extra lighting is not permitted. Also guests should be asked to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony. Photographers and videotaping persons should be instructed to speak to the priest or deacon performing the ceremony before it begins.

Church Fee: The church fee for your wedding is \$400.00 (\$600.00 for non-parishioners).