

Congratulations on your approaching marriage. We are happy that you have chosen St. Francis of Assisi Church for your wedding ceremony.

To assist you during this time, guidelines have been established to help you prepare for your ceremony.

1. WHO MAY MARRY IN ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH:

Members of the parish and their immediate families may celebrate their weddings at St. Francis of Assisi Church. A member must be registered in the parish for six months before a wedding date can be set. NON-MEMBERS may marry in St. Francis of Assisi Church only after approval by their parish priest and St. Francis' Pastor.

2. SETTING THE DATE:

We encourage you to contact our parish priest or Pastoral Associate at least six months prior to your wedding date, to arrange for the marriage preparation programs required by the diocese. Which include: FOCUS (compatibility inventory), Engaged Encounter, spending time with a sponsor couple and Natural Family Planning. Date and time should be scheduled as soon as possible. Weddings may be planned on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or at other times on other days of the week. All weddings are prohibited on Sundays, Holy Days and during the Lenten Season.

3. MINISTERS:

The Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church will preside at weddings held in the church. In the event that a guest priest is requested, the Pastor must be notified at the time the date is set. The guest priest will be expected to observe all the guidelines set by St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

4. MUSIC

Music during the Mass must be liturgically acceptable and approved. Couples are required to prepare a list of their songs and musician's names and submit this information to the Pastoral Associate at least four weeks prior to the wedding.

Church instruments will not be moved from their positions.

5. WEDDING PARTY:

In order to maintain the simplicity and appropriateness of the wedding liturgy, the number of attendants should be limited to no more than four couples. Young children, especially those under the age of five years, should not be in the wedding party. Except when wedding vows are exchanged, only the bride and groom (and if requested the matron of honor and best man) will be permitted in the sanctuary area. Members of the wedding party will be seated in the front pews.

6. REHEARSAL:

Rehearsal is normally scheduled on the evening prior to the ceremony at 7:00 p.m. and lasts approximately 45 minutes.

7. PHOTOGRAPHY:

Photos and/or videos may be taken by designated individuals who should not distract or interfere with the ceremony. Photo/video may be taken from:

- a. Stationary area along south wall
- b. Back of church
- c. Choir loft

No photo person(s) are allowed in the sanctuary area during the liturgy. The church will be open 1½ hours prior to Mass time for posed pictures.

No photos should be planned in church after the ceremony, except to sign the marriage license, if desired.

8. DECORATIONS:

Decorations for the altars are welcome. Pew bows must be hung from pew holders or ribbon (no tape). Live flowers, live greenery and candles are not allowed in the aisles or on the pews. All decorations need to be approved by the parish Decoration Coordinator. During the Easter and Christmas season, all church decorations are to remain as they are.

9. GENERAL INFORMATION:

The church is locked until regular Mass times; therefore arrangements must be made for delivery of flowers, decorating, choir practice etc.

After the wedding ceremony, please leave the church in its pre-wedding condition – taking with you extra programs, boxes, etc.

10. OTHER INFORMATION:

Throwing of rice, wheat, flower petals, bird seed etc is not permitted inside or outside of church.

Conduct during all church activities by those attending should be respectful.

No food or social beverages are allowed in church.

Smoking in church is prohibited. If you smoke outside, please dispose of cigarette butts.

The Parish Hall is available for the bride and bridesmaids to dress prior to Mass. Upon leaving, please make sure all belongings are taken with you e.g. clothing, hangers, boxes, bags etc.

11. FEES

Parish Priest	\$100.00
Sacristan	\$20.00
Parish Lector	\$20.00
Parish Servers	\$10.00
Musician	\$100.00
Chapel Fee	\$100.00 (Non-tithing Parishioner)
” ”	\$300.00 (Non-member)

All fees are to be paid prior to rehearsal.

12. Seating Capacity

375 (approx)

Pastor: Fr. Daryl Olmstead (656-0336)

Pastoral Associate: Lilly Binder (628-1970)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

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WEDDING GUIDELINES



*“...what God has joined,
man must not divide.”*