

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Checklist for the Bride and Groom

Date of Initial Interview set with priest: Date _____ Time _____

Wedding date/time firm with the parish: Date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal date/time firm with the parish: Date _____ Time _____

Second meeting set with the priest: Date _____ Time _____

Get copy of "Together for Life" from the priest

Celebrant will be _____

For Catholics: obtain newly issued Baptismal certificates.

For non-Catholic Christians, obtain copies of original Baptismal certificates.

For Catholics, obtain copies of First Communion and Confirmation certificates.

For non-parishioner bride and groom, obtain written permission to marry in St. Francis from respective pastors.

Register for the Diocese of Bridgeport Marriage Preparation Program.

Obtain State of CT marriage license dated no sooner than 65 days prior to wedding date.

Make an appointment to meet with the priest when you have completed the Marriage Preparation Program. Bring the certificate you received at the conclusion of the program to this meeting, along with any other required papers you have gathered thus far.

Meeting date/time set for _____ at _____.

Choose prayers, readings and music for your ceremony. Advise the priest of your choices

Select lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and altar servers from among your friends and relatives, if desired. Advise the priest of your choices. Give the lectors copies of the readings well ahead of the ceremony so they can practice.

Arrange for musicians and soloists to play/sing at your wedding. Advise the priest of your choices

Prior rehearsal of the music by vocal soloists and musicians is essential to their art. Give the sheet music to these performers as soon as possible to allow them to rehearse together or separately, well in advance of the ceremony.

Review a draft of any wedding program with the priest prior to printing.

Go to Confession and Holy Communion a week or two before the ceremony.

Decide on the stipend amount for the priest before the rehearsal (this is different from the Church fee).

Advise the florist and photographers when the church will be available to them, where to place flowers and equipment.

Appoint someone, perhaps an usher, to be responsible for removing pew decorations and runner.

Appoint someone to check for personal items left by guests or the bridal party in the sacristy, rest rooms or pews

Advise the priest in advance if you prefer to remove flower arrangements after the ceremony.

Advise photographer/videographer of church guidelines.

Ask someone, perhaps an usher, to remind the guests that no confetti, rice, pasta, birdseed or rose petals should be thrown as the bride and groom leave the church – but bubbles are okay.

Relax and enjoy this very special day! The priest is familiar with the specifics of a Catholic wedding ceremony, and will guide you and your attendants through it all.