

# Marriage Preparation Booklet

**Saint Anthony of Padua Church**  
85 Harrison Street,  
West Harrison, NY 10604  
Phone: (914) 948-1480  
[www.sapwh.org](http://www.sapwh.org)



## Served By:

Rev. Thomas Byrnes	Pastor
Rev. George Kanshamba	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Rubenus Cammayo	Parochial Vicar
Rev. James Villa	Weekend Associate
Deacon Thomas Vargas	Deacon
Mrs. Jean Jackson	Religious Ed Coordinator
Ms. Peggy Weber	Religious Ed Administrative
Assistant	
Mr. Laurence Broderick	Music Director
Mr. Peter Decina	Parish Trustee
Mrs. Theresa Janson	Parish Trustee
Mrs. Brittney Kamienska	Parish Secretary
Mrs. Judy Wagner	Parish Administrative Assistant

## Contact Information:

Parish Office:	914-948-1480
Religious Education:	914-949-0212
Church FAX:	914-948-0488
Church Website:	<a href="http://www.sapwh.org">www.sapwh.org</a>
Church Email:	<a href="mailto:admin@sapwh.org">admin@sapwh.org</a>
Church Office Hours:	Weekdays 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

## Weekend Masses

### **Saturday**

5:00 pm Vigil Mass

### **Sunday**

8:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm

6:00 pm

### **Daily Masses**

Monday – Thursday 8:00 am

Friday: 8:00 am & 7:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am

### **Confessions**

Saturday 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

After all weekday Masses

By appointment with a priest

### **Adoration**

Wednesdays: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Fridays: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

## **Congratulations!!!**

No doubt you are filled with excitement and anticipation as you look forward to one of the most special days of your life...*your wedding day*...and one of the most important times of your life...*your marriage*. The sacredness of the union of husband and wife in marriage underscores the necessity of making time to adequately prepare. The time and attention you devote to this preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage is a sign of just how serious you are about your choice to love and honor your future spouse all the days of your life.

This choice to love each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives is not an easy one to live. Without God in our lives, as St. Paul reminds us, we are like “noisy gongs” and “clanging cymbals.” How important it is now more than ever perhaps for couples to foster and strengthen their relationship with God through daily prayer, study, faithfulness to His Commandments, frequent confession, and weekly Mass to highlight a few key practices. With God, Who is love, all things are possible. It is obvious that God is already a part of your life in so many ways already and that you recognize your lives would make no sense...your marriage would have no meaning...without God being a part of your lives from the very beginning. How great it is that you have chosen to make God the center of your lives by asking Him to bless your marriage! With such a great start to your marriage, you will truly know and experience a love that is beyond words.

We are both happy and privileged to be a part of helping you prepare for your marriage by giving you the best that the Catholic Church has to offer you. In addition to many of the important logistical and technical requirements that we will help you with as far as your wedding day is concerned, we also hope to enrich and deepen your awareness and understanding of the great mystery of God’s gift of the sacrament of marriage...of what it means to make the commitment to love one another as God loves each and everyone of us.

This booklet is an overview of many of the aspects of the preparation process at St. Anthony of Padua Parish. The priest or deacon that will be meeting with you to guide you through the program will be reviewing many of these details along with many other more theological and spiritual issues that are outside the scope of this booklet.

Please know that I pray regularly for couples that are preparing for marriage, particularly at each Mass.

--- Fr. Tom Byrnes

***PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING***

## Date and Time of Weddings

The *usual* times for weekend weddings at St. Anthony's Parish are:

**Saturdays** at 1:00 pm or 3:00pm. in the Main Church.

**Sundays** at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Church.

**Weekdays** (times are dependent on the parish schedule).

Should there be circumstances indicating that another day is preferable, or if you need to change the date and/or time of a wedding already scheduled, *please speak with the priest or deacon who is assisting you* to see if it is possible to accommodate your request. Weddings can be scheduled on *other days* of the week depending on the parish schedule and the availability of the church or chapel. Weddings on Saturdays and Sundays, however, are limited to the above schedule. Bear in mind that other parish activities (e.g. funerals, 1<sup>st</sup> Communions, Confirmations, Holy Hours, and other devotions, etc.) may not allow for the day/time of your choice.

## Who can be married at Saint Anthony's Church?

The bride's parish is customarily the place for a wedding but it is not an absolute. It is recommended and encouraged that weddings take place within the parish where either the bride or groom are registered as parishioners. Non-parishioners, however, with permission from the respective pastor of the parish from which you may be from, can be married here at Saint Anthony's as well. If the bride and/or groom are living within the boundaries of the parish they are expected to register as members of the Saint Anthony of Padua Parish Community.

## Marriage Preparation Program at Saint Anthony's Parish

1. **Three meetings** with a priest/deacon from Saint Anthony's Parish. These meetings will be an opportunity for instruction, discussion, the gathering of necessary documents, and the chance for both you and the priest/deacon to get to know each other. You are encouraged to use this time to ask as many questions about marriage, the Catholic Faith, or any other issues or concerns that are important to you as a couple.
  - a. At the *first* meeting with a priest/deacon the date and time is set for your wedding and a packet of information will be given to you. The documents and certificates that you will need to obtain will be reviewed. (Please see below for a detailed explanation.)\* *It is extremely important* to notify the priest/deacon at this meeting as to whether or not you have any previous marriages before a judge, minister, or a priest. Failure to disclose this as soon as possible could delay your wedding. No date can be set until this is resolved.
  - b. Regarding the *second* meeting, please see number 3 below.
  - c. Regarding the *third* meeting, please see number 6 below.

2. **Pre-Cana Program:** The Archdiocese of New York requires participation in a Marriage Preparation Program in order to be married in Church. The purpose of such a program is to instill a proper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, as well as to ensure that couples
- are aware of the adjustments necessary in marriage;
  - can communicate effectively with each other;
  - can resolve differences and reach decisions maturely and amicably;
  - are not marrying with unresolved questions about their relationship.

Although we do not currently offer these programs here at Saint Anthony's Parish, we will give you a schedule of the times and places of such programs, and an application for them, or you can register for a pre-Cana program, via the Internet at [www.flrl.org](http://www.flrl.org). At the conclusion of the program, you will receive a certificate of completion. You will need to bring this certificate with you at your second meeting with the priest/deacon preparing your wedding.

3. A **second meeting** is scheduled with the priest/deacon after completion of the *Pre-Cana Program*. At this time, a *Pre-Matrimonial Questionnaire* is completed. Since the purpose of this Questionnaire is to establish your eligibility (freedom) to marry, it is well to have it completed before sending out your wedding invitations. Therefore, it should be completed **at least** one month (and **not more than six months**) prior to your wedding date. All required documents and paperwork\* should be submitted by this time, with the exception of the *N.Y.S. Marriage License* (please see number 5 below.)

4. **Appointment with the Music Director:**

- a. Please contact our music director, Mr. Laurence Broderick *not later than three months* prior to your wedding. He can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_ or by email at \_\_\_\_\_ You may also call St. Anthony's Parish Office at 914-948-1480 to leave her a message.
- b. Only liturgically appropriate music will be permitted (no popular songs, show tunes, etc.).
- c. All music is provided by St. Anthony's Parish and all arrangements for music are made through the Director of Music. Outside musicians and/or singers may be allowed, but only after consultation with the Director of Music and with the permission of the Pastor.
- d. Saint Anthony of Padua will charge the usual "bench fee" regardless of whether or not St. Anthony's musicians are used; any other fees associated with additional instruments or singers are the responsibility of the bridal party.

5. **New York State Marriage License:** In order for your marriage to be civilly recorded, it is necessary for you to obtain a New York State Marriage license. This may be done at any town or city hall (within New York State). Please be aware that such licenses are valid for sixty days only, and there is a twenty-four hour waiting period from the time of issue to the time that a wedding may be performed. It is recommended that you get your license about a month prior to the wedding date, and that you give it to the priest or deacon arranging your wedding for inclusion in your wedding folder. The priest/deacon cannot officiate at your wedding without this license.

6. **Third and final meeting:** This meeting with the priest/deacon is scheduled closer to the wedding date to review the details for the rehearsal and wedding. Any outstanding paper work and documents would be submitted by this meeting.
  
7. **Rehearsal:** The time of the rehearsal is arranged with the priest or deacon who is witnessing your wedding. We ask that all be conscientious about being on time for the rehearsal, for the sake of your own rehearsal as well as for any other rehearsals or church events that may be scheduled following your rehearsal. Here is a checklist:
  - a. You should have at the rehearsal all those who will be participating in the ceremony in any way (bridal party, readers, gift-bearers, candle-lighters, etc.).
  - b. If you will be using a *Unity Candle* in your ceremony, please bring it with you to the rehearsal and give it to the priest or deacon. Please include the two tapers and holders for all three candles. We will be happy to set it up for you on your wedding day.
  - c. *Programs, the runner, or any other items* you will need for your wedding can be brought to the church on your rehearsal day. The only items we will *not* take responsibility for are the rings. Please bring them with you the day of your wedding.
  - d. *Donations, offerings etc.* should be brought as well.
  - e. It is ***imperative*** that you have your ***marriage license*** with you by the time of your rehearsal. Your wedding *cannot take place* without it!!
  
8. **Confession** is strongly encouraged by the Church before the celebration of one of the sacraments of the Church (before baptism being an obvious exception). The two of you are about to become a witness to God's presence in our world through your love for each other as husband and wife...a reminder to us of God's never ending love for His people and our struggle to love Him as best we can with the help of His grace. We often fall short, however, of loving God and our neighbor with all of our heart. Given the fact that you are about to begin a new life together, it is very important that you begin with a heart free of sin...that you are properly disposed to receive the grace of the sacrament of marriage by being in the state of grace through the forgiveness of sins in confession. Confession is required once a year as part of our Easter Duty and anytime we have committed any serious sin. The Church encourages frequent confession, however, as an important way for us to grow in holiness. Going monthly is a wonderful practice. The sacrament of confession is available to you here at St. Anthony's anytime by appointment with a priest or at our scheduled parish times: Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. and after the weekday Masses. Confessions will also be made available for you and your guests at your wedding rehearsal. Each of you has prepared yourself in so many important external ways for your wedding day...what could be a more important sign of your love for God, each other and yourself then by preparing your soul through confession. An examination of conscience has been included in the appendix of this booklet to help you prepare for this sacrament.

## \*Documents Needed for the Pre-Marriage Investigation

In addition to your **certificate of completion** of the Archdiocesan *Pre-Cana Program*, you will need to furnish the following:

### FOR CATHOLICS

- A **Baptismal certificate** from the Church in which you were baptized. By Church Law, we are required to have a certificate that has been issued *within the six months* of your wedding date. Therefore, we cannot accept your original certificate or any photo-copy of it.
- **First Holy Communion and Confirmation certificates** showing the dates and places of your reception of these sacraments.
- **Freedom to Marry Form.** A *notarized letter* from your parents or other relatives stating that you have never been married in *any* religious *or* civil ceremony (forms for this are enclosed in your wedding packet given to you at your first meeting).
- *(if applicable)* A **letter of consent** from your parents, if either of you is not yet twenty-one years old.
- *(if applicable)* A **Letter of Permission** from your “proper pastor” (the pastor of the parish where you currently live, if not St. Anthony’s in West Harrison, N.Y.)
- *(if applicable)* Any necessary dispensations or permissions (these would be needed for marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic and if these ceremonies are being held in a non-Catholic church or properly enclosed facility out of respect for the different faiths. These are also needed for Catholics who have to obtain a declaration of nullity concerning a prior union.)
- *(if applicable)* *Finalized* Catholic Church Annulment Decree
- *(if applicable)* Death certificate of deceased husband or wife.
- *(if applicable)* If you have received any psychiatric treatment for a serious illness or injury, a letter from your doctor indicating that you are able to make an informed decision to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage.

### FOR NON-CATHOLICS

- **Certificate of Baptism** according to the norms of your denomination, or a *notarized* letter from parents or relatives indicating that you were never baptized.
- **Freedom to Marry Form.** A *notarized letter* from your parents or other relatives stating that you have never been married in *any* religious *or* civil ceremony (forms for this are enclosed in your wedding packet given to you at your first meeting).
- *(If applicable)* Death certificate of deceased husband or wife.
- *(If applicable)* If you have received any psychiatric treatment for a serious illness or injury, a letter from your doctor indicating that you are able to make an informed decision to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage.

# Wedding Liturgy

The liturgy of the Church is a public event. The wedding liturgy is shaped primarily by the *Rite of Marriage*, which presents structures, texts, and symbolic actions that are basic to all Catholic weddings. During the Pre-Cana Program, you will receive a booklet entitled: *Partners for Life and Love* that will guide you in the planning of your wedding liturgy. The priest/deacon will be happy to assist you with this as well.

## 1. Mass versus a Ceremony

*A Nuptial Mass* is appropriate, and desirable, for those who are both Catholic and are active communicants.

*A Wedding Ceremony* consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the Marriage Rite, but *not* the celebration of the Eucharist. The ceremony is offered as an option when a Catholic marries a baptized or unbaptized non-Catholic.

## 2. Participants

The priest or deacon who is preparing you for your wedding will indicate to you the various possibilities for participation in the Mass/ceremony (readers, servers, gift-bearers, etc.).

Since St. Anthony's normally provides the servers for weddings on a scheduled basis, should you wish to use particular servers or persons who are not St. Anthony servers, please make sure the priest or deacon is informed of this fact at least one month prior to the wedding.

## 3. The Procession

This can take many forms. A more liturgically appropriate entrance procession has emerged, an alternative to some of the more common processions that have been part of many weddings.

The instruction provided in *The Rite of Marriage* directs the bride and groom, following the priest and other members of the wedding party, to enter escorted by their parents. Rather than suggesting that the bride is being "given away," the Church's approach to the procession also manifests and celebrates the emergence of a new family from two existing families as well as the equality and complementarity of the bride and groom.

## 4. The Readings

The readings, which comprise the Liturgy of the Word, include a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from the New Testament, and a selection from one of the four Gospels. Please note that the Psalm is usually and preferably sung.

## 5. The Music

The music chosen for the wedding liturgy, an important part of the ritual, should be liturgically and theologically appropriate for a sacramental celebration. The parish director of music, who is contracted for all weddings, will assist you in the selection of music, and will arrange for a cantor and any additional musicians (i.e. organist).

## 6. Decorations

Decorations are among the non-verbal elements that enhance the joy of a wedding celebration. There is space for a floral arrangement in front of the altar and/or in front of the candles on either side of the altar. In front of the pulpit or in front of the altar rail are two other locations. Decorations (flowers/bows) may also be affixed to the pews. Please do not use any staples, tacks, glue, tape or anything that might ruin the finish/paint on the pews. Please arrange to have someone set-up these decorations in the church/chapel for you (i.e. florist).

You may purchase a white runner for the center aisle. At this time, St. Anthony's is unable to provide runners. Please be aware that runners often present a trip/slip hazard, especially on a tiled floor. Attention should be given to the risk presented to guests making use of the aisle during reception of Holy Communion and when exiting the church. The aisle of the Main Church is wide enough that people can just about walk to either side of the runner.

*It is never appropriate to throw anything **within** the church. An exception would be flower petals dropped by the flower girl.* Please speak with the priest or deacon preparing your wedding if you wish to use bubbles or some other traditional item (**outside** the church building) to congratulate the couple at the end of the wedding. Paper confetti is not permitted...it is very difficult to clean-up. Please arrange for the flower petals within church or whatever was used outside to be cleaned-up. St. Anthony's Parish would be happy to provide a member of the parish staff to assist with this. It is customary for a suitable tip to be provided.

Please ask if you wish to do anything beyond what has been listed in this booklet. These guidelines are meant to respect the dignity and sacredness of the church. *Noble simplicity* is the key.

## 7. The Unity Candle and other Customs

Many of the customs and traditions that become a part of wedding ceremonies, although not necessarily intrinsic to the validity of the marriage, can often serve to highlight an essential aspect of the liturgy as with the unity candle, comprised of two smaller tapers and a large center candle. The two tapers, usually lit just after the opening prayer and prior to the First Reading represent the bride and groom as individuals. After the exchange of vows and rings, the center candle is lit from both candles by the bride and groom as another sign that the two have become one. The flame, a symbol of the light of Christ, is a reminder that the couple has now become a sign of Christ's Presence in our world and a reminder of His love for His bride, the Church.

Sometimes, in memory of loved ones who have died, an additional candle called a *Memorial Candle* is also used. This candle, about a third of the size of the large unity candle, is pre-lit before the Mass or ceremony. The tapers from the unity candle are then lit from *this* candle as a sign that we still receive life and light even from those who are with us spiritually. For many couples, this is a nice positive way of remembering loved ones on their wedding day.

Another tradition is the offering of food for the poor during the presentation of the gifts. This is a sign that this couple's love for each other is directed outward... nourishing the lives of others, particularly the poor and the needy.

Flowers are often presented to Mary as an expression of gratitude for her love and care as our Mother and as a reminder of our need for her prayers and intercession, especially as the bride and groom strive to imitate her example of selfless love and purity in their marriage.

## 8. Printed Worship Aids or Programs

Although not a requirement for your wedding, they are helpful in that they encourage the entire assembly to participate in the wedding liturgy. They are also a nice way for the bride and groom to offer personal comments, expressions of gratitude or any other appropriate and meaningful thoughts. Couples who wish to have one are asked to prepare a rough draft of their program for review by the priest or deacon preparing them for their wedding.

### General Information

#### 1. Church Fees

##### **Donations/Offerings for St. Anthony's Church:**

*The Catholic Church does **not** charge for Sacraments.* Each church depends on donations/offerings in addition to the weekly collections to pay the bills, however. The suggested donation for a wedding at St. Anthony's is \$300.00. If you are experiencing any serious financial difficulties or hardships, please make the priest/deacon preparing you for your wedding aware of your situation. If you are inviting a guest priest/deacon to officiate at your wedding, please be aware that it is up to you to provide a monetary gift if you so choose. This is in addition to the suggested donation made to St. Anthony's Church. The donation to the church should be given ***no later*** than the day of your rehearsal. It is not good form for the priest/deacon to have to ask for this the day of your wedding. All business should be taken care of before then.

##### **Music Fee:**

Musicians will be provided by St. Anthony's Parish if you choose to have music at your wedding. Given the various options available for music, it is best to contact our music director regarding these fees. If paying by check, the check should be written out to Laurence Broderick. Fees are arranged/set by the music director and not by St. Anthony's Parish.

##### **Other:**

It is customary for the best man to provide a tip for the *servers*. A monetary donation to the *poor* is also a nice consideration. The priest/deacon preparing you for your wedding would be happy to offer suggestions if you should choose to make an offering.

##### **Payment:**

If paying by check, separate checks should be given for the church donation and the music fee for the respective amounts. Please remit no later than the wedding rehearsal.

#### 2. Visiting Clergy

The priest or deacon who arranges for your wedding is usually the person who will officiate. You are most welcome, however, to invite a priest or deacon you might know from another parish as the officiant; however, please let the priest/deacon know this as far in advance as possible. It is necessary for us to ensure that the visitor is properly registered in the State of New York and legally empowered to witness weddings. Canonically, visiting clergy are required to obtain delegation to officiate from the pastor of the church where the marriage is taking place. A visiting clergy form must be completed (enclosed with your packet).

## Church Etiquette

Weddings are wonderful opportunities for people who have fallen away from the Church or have gotten away from the practice of going to Mass each Sunday to reconnect. What a great grace for you, through this celebration of your love for each other, to be God's instrument in helping someone to return to the practice of their Catholic Faith. Already your love for each other is spilling over into the lives of others!! It is also anticipated that a number of your guests who plan on attending your wedding may not be at all familiar with the Catholic Church or its practices and traditions. When you are meeting with one of the priests/deacons, please feel free to inquire about helpful resources pertaining to the Catholic Faith. There is so much available today to help people understand and/or deepen their knowledge and experience of the Catholic Faith. A discussion of that right now would go well beyond the scope of this marriage booklet. You might, however, find the following guidelines about church etiquette helpful to you and your guests.

1. When entering a church it is customary to bless oneself by making the sign of the cross with the holy water in the fonts by each inner door.
2. A spirit of reverent silence is to be maintained within the church. The vestibule and of course outdoors are the more proper places for socializing.
3. Before being seated, a genuflection on your right knee or a profound bow towards the tabernacle is made.
4. No food, drinks, or gum is permitted within the church. The vestibule or outdoors are acceptable places.
5. Hats are not to be worn in the building, a practice still a part of local custom as well.
6. Dress should be an outward expression of your awareness of the sacredness of God's House...the Church within which our Lord Himself is present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. This should be reflected in attire at all times in church, not just at weddings and rehearsals. Attentiveness to modesty and the avoidance of any theatrical attire keeps the focus where it is supposed to be, namely, on God and the wedding. It is important, as at any liturgy, that we never become a spectacle or a distraction with regard to dress or any other behavior. A spirit of simplicity, humility, and modesty is our way of taking attention off of ourselves to show God that He deserves all of our attention and worship, not us.

### 1. Reception of Holy Communion at a Mass

#### *For Catholics*

Catholics fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His body and drink His blood. In order to be disposed properly to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, have fasted for an hour before the reception of Holy Communion, and seek to live in charity and love with their neighbors. People conscious of grave sin must first be reconciled with God and the Church through the sacrament of penance. Frequent confession is strongly encouraged for all.

### *For Other Christians and non-Christians*

We never want people to feel unwelcome. Sometimes that is the reaction the Catholic Church receives from people who do not understand why the Catholic Church cannot offer Holy Communion to any and everyone who comes to Mass, Catholic or not. It is not an issue of exclusivity. The Church is not a “members only club!” In fact, the Catholic Church strives for inclusiveness...all are welcome at God’s table. It is a consequence of the sad divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to them a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Catholics believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of the community. There are differences in understanding and belief regarding the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must all earnestly pray.

Those not receiving sacramental Communion are encouraged to express in their heart a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another. Those who are non-Christians who do not share our faith in Jesus are also welcome to this celebration. While we cannot extend an invitation to them to receive Holy Communion we do invite them to be united with us in prayer as well.

We have a wonderful tradition here at St. Anthony’s to involve *everyone* in the Communion rite, especially those who are unable to receive. In addition to joining us in prayer, you are welcome to approach the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion during the reception of Holy Communion to receive a *blessing* instead of Communion. You can indicate that you wish to receive a blessing by simply asking for one or by crossing your arms across your chest. A blessing will then be given for you.

## **2. Alcoholic Beverages**

Since your wedding liturgy is a holy event, the time you spend before and during the ceremony should reflect a reverence for its significance. Therefore, alcoholic beverages are prohibited anywhere in or about the church before, during, or after the wedding rehearsal or wedding. Please be aware, if the judgment of a bride or groom is significantly impaired by the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the exchange of vows there is due cause for declaring those vows null and void. Marriage must always be a *free* and *conscious* choice. Unless there is a medical issue that both parties are aware of (including the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding), taking something to “*calm one’s nerves*” is forbidden. It is normal to be nervous! See it as a sign of how important this occasion is for the both of you.

## **3. Punctuality**

Weddings are scheduled to give each bridal party sufficient time for a beautiful ceremony. It is important, however, that the Mass/ceremony begin on time, so as not to be rushed. ***If you arrive late for your wedding, we may have to shorten the ceremony in order to accommodate the time schedule.*** Please make sure that you allow enough leeway to get here on time. Currently, St. Anthony’s does not have a policy regarding financial remuneration when weddings start substantially late. This consideration is particularly for the musicians who may have other engagements and obligations scheduled after your wedding.

## 4. Photography/Videography

In order to maintain the sacredness of the event, as well as provide for ample opportunity to record this happy day, we ask that you and your photographer/videographer (whether they be a friend, relative, or professional) follow and review together the following basic guidelines. They are designed to minimize distractions, embarrassments, misunderstandings, and inappropriate conduct in a sacred environment. These guidelines are also contained on the *Video/Photo-Policy Form* that we require you and your videographer and/or photographer to read, sign, and return to us prior to your rehearsal. Please remember that the photographer/videographer's role is to take pictures of an unfolding event not to create or choreograph one. They are asked not to direct, stop processions, or interfere in *any way* with the liturgy.

- ***Prior to the ceremony*** please have your videographer and/or photographer check with us to confirm his/her understanding of our photo and video policies.
- **Under no circumstances are photographers/videographers allowed to enter the sanctuary or the steps leading up to the sanctuary.**
- ***The church is first and foremost a house of worship and not a photo studio.*** Therefore, 'photo shoots' in the church prior to or following the ceremony are discouraged. (*Exceptions* for a few pictures may be obtained by seeking the permission of the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding.)
- Photographers and videographers are expected to dress in the style of a guest.
- Photographers are asked to avoid unduly delaying the ceremony in any way, especially at the time of the bride's arrival at the church.
- Only battery-operated, **hand-held** video cameras are permitted.
- Flood lighting, pole-mounted flash units, or electrical wiring or cables on the floor are not permitted.
- Still photography is permitted, but flash only (no prolonged studio-type lighting, please).
- Photographers are not to cause undue distraction as they position themselves in the church.
- Photographers and videographers as with all those at Mass are to remain in place during the consecration and not to be walking around taking pictures or videos. As a rule of thumb, if a photographer/videographer is unfamiliar with the Catholic Mass, at the times during the Mass when everyone is kneeling, pictures should not be taken.
- Photographers are not to be in the area in front of the altar during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The required form for the photographers and videographers to sign is included in the appendix.

# Appendix

## An Adult Examination of Conscience for the Sacrament of Confession

A good confession requires sincere sorrow for one's sins and a sincere resolve with God's grace to not commit these sins again. The penitent must not intentionally withhold sins from the priest in confession. Remember that what is said in confession is between you and God. The priest is bound by the seal and may never reveal what has been spoken. The following questions, based on the *Ten Commandments* will help you to make an integral confession. *An Act of Contrition* will be provided for you in confession in case you do not know it. One is included below for you as well. Sometimes people feel a bit nervous or even ashamed to go to confession. Please remember that this is a sacrament of mercy and peace...a time of forgiveness...not judgment. There is no sin that God won't forgive!

Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to help you remember your sins and the areas of your life that need growth and healing. God points out our sins and weaknesses not to condemn us, but rather that we may learn a better way to live...a way that will bring us greater joy and peace. It is the way of holiness...it is the way of Jesus and our Blessed Mother Mary.

### Now ask yourself:

- Am I always truthful?
- Do I ever remain silent instead of standing up for what I believe?
- Do I intentionally hurt others by my words or actions, by my silence, or by avoiding them?
- Do I take pleasure in seeing others suffer or go without?
- Do I try to love, accept, and understand people who are different from me?
- Am I respectful toward people of other races, cultures, religions?
- Do I gossip or say things that may harm the reputations of others?
- Do I lead or encourage others to sin?
- Do I carry grudges? Do I seek revenge? Do I enjoy "teaching others a lesson?"
- Have I failed to respect the sanctity of human life in any way? Have I encouraged, aided, or supported others in doing so?
- Do I respect my body and take care of my health?
- Do I drink to excess? Eat too much?
- Do I take, distribute, or encourage others to use illegal substances?
- Do I use or abuse the bodies of others?
- If married, am I truly faithful to my spouse?
- Am I in a relationship which is unhealthy, abusive, or morally wrong?
- Do I try to get along with my spouse, children, in-laws, neighbors, friends, and co-workers?
- Do I cheat or act dishonestly?
- Do I take things that do not belong to me?
- Do I treat other people in an unfair or unjust manner?
- Do I give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay? Am I a fair and just employer?
- Am I always angry about something? Do I enjoy making life more difficult for those around me?
- Am I always complaining? Rarely happy or satisfied? Is my temper under control?
- Am I lustful? Do I look at, read, or talk about things that may cause me to sin?
- Am I a 'slave' to my desires or do I try to keep them under control?

- Am I lazy? Am I a constant procrastinator?
- Am I willing to forgive those who offend me? Always?
- Am I proud? Boastful? Arrogant? Conceited?
- Am I judgmental toward others?
- Am I selfish? Stingy? Greedy?
- Am I rude? Impolite? Disrespectful?
- Do I swear? Curse? Use the name of the Lord thoughtlessly?
- Do I show respect for God? The Church? Those in legitimate authority over me?
- Do I try to set a good example as a Catholic? Am I ever ashamed of being a Catholic?
- Am I apathetic toward the practice of my faith?
- With regard to the Church's teachings do I pick and choose what suits me?
- Do I willingly and freely skip Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation? After having missed Mass in this way, have I received Holy Communion before having gone to confession?
- If I am a parent, do I set a good example for my children? Am I concerned about their Catholic upbringing? Do I attend Mass with them regularly?
- Do I sincerely try to pray on a daily basis or only when I want something?
- Do my 'priorities' in life keep me from living as I should?
- In summary, what are the areas of my life that I wish were more like Jesus and Mary's?

### **Procedure for Confession**

You have the option of making your confession face to face with the priest or anonymously from behind a screen. Begin by saying, "Bless me Father for I have sinned, it has been \_\_\_ days/months/years since my last confession. These are my sins." Continue by mentioning your sins beginning with the most serious sins first. The priest may speak to you for a moment to offer some spiritual direction. He will give you a penance to do after your confession. Next you would recite the Act of Contrition. Lastly the priest will extend his hand over your head and absolve you of all of your sins.

### **An Act of Contrition**

My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, in choosing to do wrong and failing to do good. I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend with Your help, to sin no more, to do penance, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. You Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name my God have mercy. Amen.

***Saint Anthony of Padua Church***  
***85 Harrison Street, West Harrison, NY 10604***  
***Phone: (914) 948-1480 Fax:***

## **Video-Photo Policy Form**

In order to maintain the sacredness of the event, as well as provide for ample opportunity to record this happy day, we ask that you and your photographer follow the following basic guidelines. We require that you and your photographer (and videographer) read, sign, and return this Video-Policy Form to us prior to your rehearsal. ***Failure to adhere to the provisions of this policy will result in the dismissal of the photographer from the premises, and preclude any future permission to work at St. Anthony's Church. Prior to the ceremony the photographer must check with the priest or deacon to confirm his/her understanding of our photo and video policies. The following is a list of specific directives regarding photos and videos:***

- ***Prior to the ceremony*** please have your videographer and/or photographer check with us to confirm his/her understanding of our photo and video policies.
- **Under no circumstances are photographers/videographers allowed to enter the sanctuary or the steps leading up to the sanctuary.**
- ***The church is first and foremost a house of worship and not a photo studio.*** Therefore, 'photo shoots' in the church prior to or following the ceremony are discouraged. (*Exceptions for a few pictures may be obtained by seeking the permission of the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding.*)
- Photographers and videographers are expected to dress in the style of a guest.
- Photographers are asked to avoid unduly delaying the ceremony in any way, especially at the time of the bride's arrival at the church.
- Only battery-operated, **hand-held** video cameras are permitted.
- Flood lighting, pole-mounted flash units, or electrical wiring or cables on the floor are not permitted.
- Still photography is permitted, but flash only (no prolonged studio-type lighting, please).
- Photographers are not to cause undue distraction as they position themselves in the church.
- Photographers and videographers as with all those at Mass are to remain in place during the consecration and not to be walking around taking pictures or videos. As a rule of thumb, if a photographer/videographer is unfamiliar with the Catholic Mass, at the times during the Mass when everyone is kneeling, pictures should not be taken.
- Photographers are not to be in the area in front of the altar during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- The required form for the photographers and videographers to sign is included in the appendix.

***PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO WEDDING.***

Photographer's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Studio: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Videographer's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Studio: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Saint Anthony of Padua Church**  
**85 Harrison Street, West Harrison, NY 10604**  
**Phone: (914) 948-1480 Fax:**

**Affidavits of Freedom to Marry**

*This form must be signed by family, relatives and/or friends who have known you personally since your twelfth birthday. Please have this notarized or witnessed by a priest.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom

“I promise before God that the person named above as the bride/groom has never been married before, is not related to the party he/she intends to marry and is no affected by any other impediment to marriage.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of First Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of First Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship/years of friendship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship/years of friendship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Second Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Second Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship/years of friendship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship/years of friendship

Witnessed on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

Witnessed on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Seal of Priest/Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Seal of Priest/Notary

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