

WEDDING LITURGY FAQ'S (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Who needs to attend the rehearsal? Rehearsal is important to make all participants feel comfortable. Those who should attend the rehearsal include: **Bride and Groom, all bridesmaids and groomsmen, ushers, padrinos and compadres, parents of the bride and groom, and all ministers (readers, ushers, greeters, communion ministers, etc.) who have a role in the celebration.** Rehearsals will start on time, so please remind everyone to be early.

Can the flower girl drop rose petals down the aisle? What about rice, birdseed, bubbles, etc. outdoors at the end of the wedding? Due to liability concerns and safety, flower petals (real or silk) may not be dropped on the aisle, and the throwing of rice, birdseed, bubbles or other such things is not permitted, either inside or outside the church building. You might consider simple hand-held ribbon banners for your guests to wave instead.

Can I put flowers or bows on the pews? Yes, with care. Be aware that you *cannot* use tape, tacks, nails or anything that will mar or damage the pews. The best solution is to incorporate a loop of ribbon on the back of the bows or flowers that can be easily slipped over or tied to the end of the pews.

What about flower arrangements for my wedding? Seasonal flowers and decor already in the church must be left in place. If additional flowers are desired for the wedding, it is your responsibility to furnish them. A simple arrangement in front of the ambo (where the readings are proclaimed) works best. Flowers or other items *should not be placed* on top of the altar itself, as it is reserved for the Eucharist. You should designate a family member or friend to remove all wedding decorations from the church immediately following the wedding.

Can I have a wedding program? To encourage the participation of the liturgical assembly, a simple and well designed program should contain the order of service, music selections and subtle directions for the assembly. The task of putting the program together and having it printed is up to you, but the Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music can provide an outline to follow.

Where does the wedding party gather? One hour before the liturgy the bride's room, which is upstairs near the sacristy, will be available for you to use as a preparation room. Be sure to ask someone to walk through the room and the church after the liturgy to pick up any items that may have been left behind.

How early before the wedding can we get into the church? The church will be open and available one hour before the wedding is scheduled to begin. While we make every attempt to allow enough time between services, please be aware that there may be another wedding or quinceañera celebration scheduled either before or after your celebration.