

**ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
P.O. BOX 268, 801 BURLESON STREET
KYLE, TEXAS 78640
512/268-5311**

GUIDELINES FOR MARRIAGE LITURGIES

Greetings and welcome to St. Anthony's Catholic Church. We want to assist you in your preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Your wedding is meant to be a joyful and meaningful celebration, one that you will long remember. We offer these guidelines and instructions to help and support you, not only in getting ready for the celebration of your vows but also for a life-long commitment to God, the Church, and to each other. Share these guidelines with your future spouse and together begin your life journey. Please contact us at least nine months prior to your preferred wedding date.

Your initial contact at St. Anthony's Catholic parish to start your marriage preparation is:
St. Anthony's wedding coordinator, call (512) 268-5311 or email: weddings@samckyle.org

MARRIAGE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- ❖ For those preparing for marriage at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, we ask that you be a registered member of our parish and be participating in the Catholic faith by attending Sunday Mass regularly for at least six months.
- ❖ To be married in the Catholic Church one of you must be a baptized Catholic. For couples in which one is not Catholic a dispensation is needed for a mixed marriage. This will be explained to you and the process for this at your initial interview with the priest assigned to you for marriage preparation. In order to receive this dispensation, the Catholic member of the couple must sign a statement that he/she intends to continue practicing the Catholic faith and to have children baptized and raised Catholics.
- ❖ If one or both of you have been married before and the spouse of the previous marriage is still living, you must have an annulment by the Catholic Church of any prior marriage (civil, Catholic, Protestant) to be married in the Catholic Church. This applies both to Catholics and to non-Catholics. In many cases this slows down the marriage preparation process since we cannot schedule a wedding until any needed annulments have been received. If you have been married before, without exception, you must bring that to the attention of the priest immediately to determine, not if an annulment is needed, but what sort of an annulment is needed.
- ❖ The Catholic Church requires anyone preparing for the sacrament of matrimony to be well disposed and prepared. These guidelines explain how you can prepare yourself and how we will support you in this process.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, Love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13: 3-8

MARRIAGE PREPARATION INFORMATION

NINE MONTHS TO ONE YEAR AHEAD:

- ❖ Contact the wedding coordinator (512) 268-5311, at least nine months prior to your preferred wedding date for information and guidelines for marriage liturgies at St. Anthony Marie de Claret Church. He/She will obtain basic information from you (i.e., whether you are registered at our parish, bride and groom's names, religion, contact phone numbers, and information on any prior marriages).
 - Catholic's must obtain a recent copy of their baptismal certificate issued within the last six (6) months. They are to ask the church of baptism to include *all notations* on the certificate. Being confirmed is not a requirement but is encouraged. Father will help find adult confirmation classes, if needed. *Non-Catholics* are simply asked to bring information regarding their baptism: name and address of the non-Catholic church *where* she or he was baptized and the *date* of that baptism.
 - If either party were married before, the wedding coordinator may request that you meet with the parish priest to discuss the previous marriage. The following documents may be needed regarding prior marriages: copies of the marriage license, marriage certificate, final divorce decree and/or Catholic Nullity decree.
 - Once you have obtained the required documents (i.e., Catholic parties obtained a recent copy of their Baptism certificate, with notations, and any prior marriage documents if needed), they are to bring the documents to the office. Now, we will start a file for your paper work.
 - If your marriage is to take place within the celebration of Mass, a *priest* must preside. A *deacon* may preside at a celebration of the sacrament of marriage without a Mass. Wedding coordinator will check with the priest or deacon on their availability.
- ❖ The Catholic Church requires anyone preparing for the sacrament of matrimony to be well disposed and prepared, because marriage is a permanent state in life. The following are offered to aid in this preparation:
 - Attendance of an approved marriage preparation program. The following program is available:
 - *Together in God's Image*: An introduction to Catholic Marriage, provided by the Diocese of Austin. The Diocese of Austin offers the pre-marriage seminar in both weekend retreat format and sometimes in a four-part evening series. Please visit the Family Life and Family Counseling page on the diocesan Website: <http://www.austindiocese.org/departments/home.php?id=11> for the current dates, fees, and registration information. Engaged couples must provide proof they have taken either the FOCCUS or PREPARE assessment before attending the *Together in God's Image* classes or retreat. Couples must register by contacting the diocesan Office of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life at (512) 949-2495 and speak with Rick Bologna. Couples planning to attend the diocesan pre-marriage retreat, *Together in God's Image*, are encouraged to register as soon as possible because these retreats and classes fill up quickly.
 - *Journey into Marriage*: offered by Pat and Richard Thompson, (512) 261-8124, email: journeyintomarrriage@austin.rr.com *Journey into Marriage* is a two day seminar offered Friday evening and on a Saturday and includes the FOCCUS assessment. The cost for attending is \$150 per couple. It is held at different

times of the year at Emmaus Catholic Church, 1718 Lohman's Crossing, Lakeway, Texas.

- **Natural Family Planning:** the following organizations are approved to offer education in Natural Family Planning in English and Spanish to Catholic couples in the Diocese of Austin:
 - *Creighton FertilityCare System* –Austin FertilityCare Center 2026 Guadalupe Street Austin, Texas 78705 contact Cinthya Alvarez-Pérez, M.Ed FCP at (956) 212-0151

GUIDELINES FOR MUSIC

Marriage is a sacramental celebration, and, as such, all music for a marriage ceremony should reflect the sacred act of worship. Therefore, all music must be sacred in nature and reflect the faith of the Church. The words of any songs must reflect the context of faith. Songs that are secular in origin or that focus on romantic love are better suited for the reception. If you have any questions, consult with the priest or deacon officiating at your marriage.

- ❖ All music ministers, instrumentalists, and soloists are required to follow the guidelines for liturgical music at St. Anthony Marie de Claret Catholic Church.
- ❖ Preparation for the music to be used at the church needs to be arranged by you directly. If you wish, you may contact one of the following parish music ministers:
 - Marianna Peca-Garner (512) 589-5327, marianna.garner@gmail.com

Any arrangements for payments to parish music ministers are to be made by the couple.

- ❖ **Guest music ministers** are welcome; however, they are to communicate beforehand with wedding coordinator regarding, microphones, instruments, etc. Music selected must be in accordance with liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. Any arrangements for payments to guest music ministers are to be made by the couple.
- ❖ NO pre-recorded music, cassette tapes, or CDs are allowed.
- ❖ All music must be sacred in nature and reflect the faith of the Church.

GUIDELINES FOR FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

- ❖ Furnishings and seasonal church decorations must remain in place. No flowers may be added during the season of Lent. During Advent, the Advent wreath remains in its place, and flowers are kept to a minimum. During Christmas, there are many poinsettias decorating the church; these and the Christmas Manger cannot be moved.
- ❖ Your florist must follow all guidelines, and their work and time schedule must be coordinated with wedding coordinator. There is no work place provided for florists; they must bring their flower arrangements completed and ready for use.
- ❖ A kneeler is provided for the bride and groom.
- ❖ No flowers, arches, or candles are to obstruct the space around the altar or tabernacle. Flowers and other decorations should also not block the music minister's view of the altar.
- ❖ For safety reasons, no candles may be attached to the pews.
- ❖ For safety reasons, no aisle runners are permitted.

- ❖ It is your responsibility to clear all decorations from the church as soon as possible following the ceremony. All decorations should be cleared within 30 minutes of ending your wedding. Another ceremony or liturgy may follow.
- ❖ If you use an outside florist, we would certainly appreciate the gift of your flowers after your wedding for our weekend Masses. Please let the wedding coordinator know if you wish to donate your flowers.
- ❖ Unity candles are **not** permitted during the ceremony.
- ❖ Flower petals, rice, birdseed, bubbles, confetti, smoke producing devices, Silly String, or sparklers **cannot** be used *inside or outside of the church*. This prohibition is for safety and maintenance reasons. **There are no exceptions.** *Failure to comply will result in the loss of your \$200 deposit in addition to incurring the cost of any repairs as the result of damage.*
- ❖ No tape or tacks may be used to attach bows or flowers to the pews. They may be attached with ribbon, string, or plastic clips that fit over the pews. Please assign someone to remove any pew bows and all decorations immediately after the ceremony.
- ❖ Please assign someone to pick up all trash, programs, etc., that may have been left behind.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

- ❖ All photographers (still and video) must check with the priest or deacon prior to the rehearsal. We want the couple to have a good remembrance of their ceremony; however, the photographers and videographers should be discreet and not distract in any way during the ceremony.
- ❖ Photographers are not to interfere with the liturgy or the exchange of vows by *excessive* movement or flashes. If there are any questions, please address them to the presiding priest or deacon before the ceremony.
- ❖ Photographer must remember that marriage is an act of worship and that unnecessary distractions are unacceptable. Therefore, photographers and videographers are not allowed in the sanctuary at any time during the liturgy and are to remain at a respectful distance so as not to distract the congregation.
- ❖ Video cameras are allowed under the conditions stated above. All video cameras must remain stationary.
- ❖ No extra camera lights may be used during the liturgy. Flash lighting is permitted *only* at special moments, such as vows, rings, communion of the couple, or Hispanic customs (arras, lasso, etc.). Extra lighting is permissible following the liturgy.
- ❖ You and the photographer are asked to respect the sacredness of the church while giving instructions and taking pictures of the wedding party.
- ❖ Photographs are normally permitted *only after* the ceremony.
- ❖ Any photographs following the wedding should take no longer than thirty (30) minutes. The sacristans will inform the photographer when she or he has exceeded the limit. *It is expected that the photography session will immediately end.* Failure to comply results in loss of the \$200 deposit. It is best that the photographer be given a list *before* the photo session so that she or he will know what photographs need to be taken (parents, grandparents, etc.). This will help assure that they complete their work in the allotted 30-minute timeframe.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ❖ If your wedding time is Saturday at 2:00 PM, everyone must be out of the church by 3:30 PM to allow for cleaning prior to confessions, which are scheduled to begin at 4:00 PM.
- ❖ Remember that the wedding will begin on time. Please emphasize to members of your wedding party to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the time of the celebration. Failure to arrive on time results in the loss of your \$200 deposit. Only one hour is allowed for the ceremony, in addition to 30 minutes after the ceremony for taking photographs. Arriving late will force the priest or deacon to shorten the ceremony.
- ❖ The parish is not responsible for items left in the church or the bridal room.
- ❖ Attached to these guidelines is an acknowledgement stating that the bride and groom have received and read a copy of these guidelines and that they agree to abide by the guidelines. It also serves as a receipt for the fee of using the church. This acknowledgement must be signed and given to the wedding coordinator, prior to reserving the church.
- ❖ The couple assumes financial responsibility for:
 - Repairs of any damage to the church, church property, or other facilities at St. Anthony Marie de Claret Church at the rehearsal or before, during, and after the wedding due to negligence or vandalism associated with the wedding; and
 - Replacing any items taken from the church.
- ❖ Food, drinks (other than water), and tobacco products are not allowed in church at any time. **There are no exceptions! Please note: absolutely no alcohol—including wine, champagne, beer, or any other spirits—is permitted in the church, bride's room, or anywhere else on St. Anthony's grounds before, during, or after the rehearsal and wedding.**

Use "Together for Life" book in selecting readings, prayers and blessings.

Indicate Choices by putting them in the proper spaces below.

Opening Prayer: *page 8 (A1-4)*

Enter selected # here: A- *page* _____

Old Testament Reading: *pages 10-26 (B1-9)*

Enter selected # here: B -; *page* _____ To Be Read By: _____

Responsorial Psalm: *pages 28-31 (C1-7)*

Enter selected # here: C -; *page* _____ To Be Read By: _____

New Testament Reading: *pages 34-54 (D1-13)*

Enter selected # here: D-; *page* _____ To Be Read By: _____

Alleluia Verse and Verse Before the Gospel: *page 54 (E1-4)*

Enter selected # here: E-; *page* _____; Sung _____ Omitted _____

Gospel: *pages 56-72- (F1-10)*

Enter selected # here: F -; *page* _____ To Be Read By: _____ Priest or Deacon _____

Exchange of Consent or Wedding Vows: *pages 76-77 (H1-2)*

Enter selected # here: H-; *page* _____

Consent through questions _____ Memorized by Couple _____

Recited after Priest _____ Read from book _____

Standing with the bride and groom during the vows (circle one)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. No one | 2. Best Man and Maid of Honor |
| 3. All Attendants | 4. Primeros Padrinos |

Blessing of Rings: *page 78 (I1-3)*

Enter selected # here: I-; *page* _____

Prayer of the Couple (optional): *page 79*

Read by us at this point of ceremony _____ Read by us after communion _____ Omitted _____

Prayers of the Faithful: *pages 80-82 (J1-3)*

Enter selected # here: J-; *page* _____ By: _____

Presentation of the Gifts:

Brought forward by: Bride and Groom: _____ Parents: _____ Other (name): _____

Gifts already on Altar? _____

Prayer Over the Gifts: *page 84 (K1-3)*

Enter selected # here: K-; *page* _____

Preface: pages 85-86 (L1-3)

Enter selected # here: L-__ ; page ____

Nuptial Blessing: pages 87-89 (M1-3)

Enter selected # here: M-__ ; page ____

Sign of Peace:

Bride and Groom only ____ Couple sign of peace to wedding party/parents ____

Couple sign of peace to guests down main aisle ____

Communion:

Bride and Groom only ____ Wedding party ____ All: ____

Under both kinds: ____ No communion ____

Prayer After Communion: page 90 (N1-3)

Enter selected # here: N-__ ; page ____

Final Blessing: pages 91-92 (O1-4)

Enter selected # here: O-__ ; page ____

HISPANIC CUSTOMS

Traditional Gifts to be given?

Arras YES NO Presented by: _____

Lasso YES NO Presented by: _____

Rosary & Bible YES NO Presented by: _____

Pillows YES NO Presented by: _____

Are people presenting these traditional gifts in the wedding party/procession? YES NO

LANGUAGE (circle one): English Spanish Bilingual

If bilingual, which parts in Spanish and English? _____

OTHER REMARKS:
