

Planning Your Wedding Ceremony

Here at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish we joyfully look forward to working with both the Bride and Groom to create a meaningful and memorable celebration in keeping with the Church's Tradition. You will have a lot of choices to make and we will gladly help you every step of the way.

Once you have met with Fr. Schultz and filled out initial paperwork and set a date, you will meet with the church wedding coordinator to go over all ceremony details (readings, prayers, etc) and choices according to the Rite of Matrimony that has been chosen for the wedding ceremony.

Music

It is important to note that due to the sacredness of the occasion and setting, music whose text does not respect the sacred nature of the wedding ceremony and sacred nature of a Catholic Church is not appropriate, and therefore cannot be used during the wedding ceremony.

Mr. Alan Lynch is the Director of Music and organist at St. Mary's Church and must be contacted regarding all music for the wedding ceremony. Please contact him at least two (2) months prior to your wedding, although earlier is encouraged. Mr. Lynch will help you choose music and hire the cantor (or cantors) as well as any instrumentalists if desired. There is a list of preferred cantors that Mr. Alan Lynch will discuss with the Bride and Groom. Music can either be chosen from an approved list of music or music that fits the guidelines for music. Mr. Lynch can be contacted at cell number: 1-201-675-9746 or by email at alynch@syrдио.org.

Outside Musicians: If you are planning on hiring instrumental musicians or cantors, you must notify the Directory of Music at least two (2) months prior to your wedding to receive approval. Any visiting organist must be

approved by Mr. Alan Lynch. All musicians and musical selections need to be approved by Mr. Alan Lynch.

Photography/Videography

Photographers and Videographers are both welcome at St. Mary's, however, we do ask that they take every consideration to not be a distraction during the wedding ceremony and that they be respectful to the sacred nature of St. Mary's Church. All photographers and videographers must speak with the church wedding coordinator at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the wedding to discuss appropriate locations for taking photos and recording the wedding. If there will be special technical requirements for live-streaming of the wedding, the video technician must contact the parish office at least two (2) weeks in advance to make arrangements for access and set-up of equipment. If you wish to have your pet(s) in any wedding pictures, those pictures must be taken outside of the Church - We recommend the steps of the Church or the Prayer Garden. Although we understand how important pets are, we do ask your consideration in not bringing them into the Church.

Decorations/Flowers

We encourage you to use local florists and gladly welcome the donation of any floral arrangements that are left after the ceremony to beautify our Church. We do not allow any runners, carpets, lighting, scaffolding, or other alterations to the Church. Please note that during special seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, the Church will already be decorated. You will need to accommodate your plans to the decorations already present. Please discuss all decorating plans with the church wedding coordinator and make prior arrangements for decorating during the rehearsal or prior to the wedding. Arrangements with florist delivery/set up time must be pre-arranged. The Church is open 90

minutes before the ceremony. Additional arrangements can be accommodated if made in advance.

Hopkins Hall

Any use of Hopkins Hall for preparation and use prior to the wedding must be pre-arranged. Please consider stopping by to view the Hall as part of a full tour of our gorgeous parish campus. Hopkins Hall may also be rented for a wedding reception or for use prior to or use after the wedding rehearsal. Rental Fees and Insurance Policy apply

Wedding Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is traditionally the afternoon or evening prior to the wedding day. The wedding rehearsal will not include any music. If additional musicians require any type of rehearsal, this will have to be pre-arranged with Mr. Alan Lynch and Church staff according to schedules and availability. **Please, there is no alcohol allowed in the Church or waiting areas, or anywhere on the Church grounds (including in the parking lot), either before or after the wedding rehearsal.** We ask everyone to refrain from any profanity or dress attire not befitting the sacred space of a Catholic Church. *Please bring all questions or concerns directly to the church wedding coordinator. Good communication will allow for a stress-free and successful wedding rehearsal.*

Day of the Wedding

The Church doors will be open 90 minutes before the wedding ceremony unless other arrangements are made. Groomsmen, please be at the Church one (1) hour before the start of the ceremony. Bride and Bridesmaids must please be at the Church 15 minutes before the ceremony. All participants should be at the church one half hour before the ceremony. Photographers and videographers should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the wedding ceremony. Please be sure that everyone who participates in the wedding ceremony is appropriately dressed for church. **Please, there is no alcohol allowed in the Church or waiting areas, or anywhere on the Church grounds (including the parking lot), either before or after the ceremony.** We ask everyone to refrain from any profanity or dress attire not befitting the sacred space of a Catholic Church. *Please bring all questions or concerns directly to the church wedding coordinator. Good communication will allow for a beautiful wedding day for all participants.*