

WELCOME!

The parish family of St. Andrew congratulates you on your forthcoming wedding. The following notes will help guide you according to Church and Civil Law and Diocesan and Liturgical Guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MARRIAGE

Marriage is administered by the couple with the priest as witness for the Christian community. Thus both partners must be capable of giving and receiving the sacrament.

CHURCH ARRANGEMENTS

The Marriage Policy of the Diocese requires that a couple contact the parish priest as soon as they are engaged and no less than four to six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. The couple is required to meet with the priest to discuss the Sacrament of Marriage and be made aware of church teaching in this area. Also, the couple should **secure a current copy of their Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation, which is required.** Other papers which together become your permanent marriage file must be completed and signed. The couple will also be required to take an on line pre-marital inventory which will be used as a discussion tool to reflect on the various aspect of married life. The final meeting with the priest will review the actual wedding liturgy.

PRE-CANA

The Diocese of Erie also requires that couples complete a course in marital instruction called "Pre-Cana" (Engaged Encounter or Nova may be substituted) A listing of times and places for Pre Cana and Engagement Encounter may be found in the Diocesan website www.eriercd.org



TIME FOR WEDDING

Our time for a Wedding is at 1:30pm or earlier on Saturdays.

THE CEREMONY

When both partners to the marriage are Catholic, it is assumed that the ceremony will take place within the context of Mass. In interfaith weddings normally the ceremony is made up of a prayer service, Liturgy of the Word and exchange of vows. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is strongly recommended for Catholics prior to the wedding.

ENVIRONMENT

The decorations for the wedding ceremony are the responsibility of the couple. Floral arrangements should be tasteful and can remain in the church after the ceremony as a gift to the faith community. (Note: the center aisle of St. Andrew Church is 94 ft. long) It is the responsibility of either the wedding party or the florist to remove these items after the ceremony. No item used should be attached to aisles, pews, walls, etc in a way which could cause damage to the interior of the church. The practice of scattering flower petals in the main aisles as part of the procession is prohibited. If the couple wishes to have a program please have it confirmed with the celebrant.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

If you are having a full mass, altar servers are provided by the parish for weddings. A gift of appreciation should be provided for them. Lectors for the scripture readings may be chosen by the couple. Those chosen by the couple to read should be familiar with the proclamation of God's Word. Generally due to the size of wedding congregations, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are not needed.

MUSIC

The wedding liturgies celebrated at St. Andrew utilize the Parish's Liturgical musicians. The couple to be married should meet with the organist to plan for the appropriate music for the ceremony. \$150.00 for Organist, \$100.00 for cantor. The stipend should be given to them in advance to the wedding. Please acknowledge that the stipend to the organist and the church cantor must still be paid (even if others are used) as that is part of their contract with the parish. Thank you.

FEES

There are no fees attached to a wedding at St. Andrew Parish if you are an active member. If non-parishioners desire to use St. Andrew Church for their wedding ceremony an advance fee of \$300. is expected. All fees and / or gifts should be placed in envelopes identifying for whom the fee or gift is intended, and given to the priest / celebrant at the rehearsal for distribution.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and / or videotaping of the ceremony is the responsibility of the couple. Photographers / video technicians should be advised that no equipment / or personnel are permitted in the sanctuary area and that personnel / equipment must not obstruct or detract from the sacred and solemn nature of the wedding ceremony. Photography should be completed within a reasonable amount of time either before or after the ceremony with due respect for liturgical functions proceeding or following your ceremony.



THROWING OF RICE, BIRDSEED, ETC.

We ask that you refrain from this practice, particularly for reasons of safety and maintenance.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The use of alcohol anywhere on church property or tobacco products within the church is prohibited.

BRIDAL ROOM

St. Andrew provides a room at the rear of the church near the entrance for the use of the bride and her attendants. Since this room also serves as the Reconciliation Room we ask that care be given to this space while it is being used, and that it is left in the order it originally was in.

PRIEST CELEBRANT NOT FROM ST. ANDREW

If the priest celebrating your marriage is not from St. Andrew, we ask the following: he should complete all of the paperwork and receive the permission from the pastor to celebrate the wedding. He should be aware of the procedures of this parish and respect time constraints. He should also make arrangements well in advance for rehearsal times, unlocking of church, etc.

FINALLY...

These guidelines attempt to answer the more commonly asked questions concerning your marriage celebration here at St. Andrew. However, new and unique circumstances arise all the time which should be addressed by the priest. It should not be assumed that permission is granted for other practices, etc., because those items are not addressed within these guidelines.

The Sacrament of Marriage begins with your wedding ceremony. We at St. Andrew desire that it be a good and holy beginning of a long life together. Therefore, these guidelines should not be seen as prohibitions but as ways to readily achieve that goal. We pray that this preparation be a time of faith in God's love and care, hope for a bright future life together and growing love for each other and for the Creator who has brought you to this special time.

CHECK LIST FOR THE ENGAGED COUPLE

- Tentative Wedding Date Set _____
- Priest / Celebrant selected
- Baptismal Certificates obtained
- First Eucharist Certificates obtained
- Confirmation Certificates obtained
- Pastoral Musician contacted
- Servers / Lectors selected
- Photographer notified of parish guidelines

NEEDED FOR THE REHEARSAL

- Date / Time _____
- All involved in wedding notified of rehearsal date and time (wedding party, parents, lectors, etc.)
- Marriage License
- Order of Procession worked out in advance
- Partners for procession determined
- Escort for Groom's parents selected
- Escort for Bride's parents selected
- Lector's readings rehearsed in advance

ADDITIONAL NOTES / COMMENTS:



Marriage Preparation



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