

# *Preparing for your Wedding*

*at Our Lady of the  
Assumption Church*

We have prepared these guidelines to help you  
as you prepare for marriage at our church.

In it, you will find the various preparations that  
need to be completed at each step as you approach your  
wedding day. The priest with whom you are working will  
guide you through all of these steps and be prepared to answer any  
questions you may have as you go through the process.

Our prayers are with you as you discern taking this  
important step in your lives.

## I. The Initial Meeting

- ◆ Diocesan policy states that initial inquiries should be made at least eight months before the anticipated date of the wedding. Exceptions may be made at the pastor's discretion.
- ◆ No wedding date can be confirmed until the couple meets with a parish priest.
- ◆ At the initial meeting with the priest the couple undergoes a FOCCUS compatibility study, conducted in the parish office.

## II. Preparing for the Ceremony

- ◆ Clergy in good standing who are relatives or friends of the couple are welcome to witness the Marriage or participate in the Wedding. Clergy whose legal residence is outside Massachusetts must obtain permission from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office to validly witness a marriage. The Secretary of State's office may be reached at 617.727.2836.
- ◆ All Catholics must provide a new certificate of Baptism, which can be obtained from the parish at which you were baptized; Confirmation certificates are also required. We request that non-Catholics who have been baptized provide a certificate attesting to that fact. Please hand deliver or mail these to the parish office.
- ◆ With the exception of con-validation cases, couples will have to attend a Pre-Cana program. After doing so, please contact the priest with whom you are working to complete the paper work.
- ◆ All musical arrangements must be made with Ms. Grace O'Connor, the parish director of music, at 508.428.5572. If a vocalist or organist is used, you must use the parish ones. If you choose another, the parish ones must be paid as well. Each receives \$200.00. Other musicians may be included in wedding plans. Please call Ms. O'Connor to reserve her services after the initial meeting with the priest. Fees for parish musicians should be given to Ms. O'Connor when the couple meets with her; or the fees may be sent to the parish office before the wedding.
- ◆ All planned decorations for the ceremony must be approved by the pastor at least one month before the wedding, with descriptions and/or pictures for any decorations more than 2 feet high or wide. Flower petals and the like are not to be strewn in church unless the wedding party arranges for immediate cleanup following the service. In all cases, the decorations should not be so elaborate as to detract from the ceremony itself. If any decorations are put on the ends of the pews, only rubber bands, string, or something similar may be used; tape and other adhesives may not be used, as they damage the finish of the wood.
- ◆ We ask that some donation be made to the parish for the wedding ceremony. While we leave the amount of the donation to your discretion, we ask that you keep it in proportion to the amount being spent on other aspects of the wedding celebration. A donation to the parish is still expected even if a visiting cleric presides at the ceremony.

- ◆ Please let it be known to all guests that we request and expect their respect for our church and grounds: that they maintain a respectful composure while in church, and do not damage or otherwise misuse the surrounding lawns and gardens.

### III. The Wedding Rehearsal

- ◆ By or on the day of the rehearsal, the following must be provided to the priest:
  - A valid Marriage License
  - A copy of the wedding planning sheet (this may be faxed earlier)
- ◆ At the rehearsal and on the day of the wedding no alcohol of any kind is permitted on the church premises, nor are drinking, eating, or smoking allowed inside the church.

### IV. After your Wedding

- ◆ If there is any way in which we may assist you following you marriage here, please call us and we shall serve you as best we can.
- ◆ As you are now a new family, you will need to fill out a new registration form. If you are members of this parish, the parish office can supply you with one. Otherwise, ask for one at your own parish.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU PREPARE YOUR NEW LIFE TOGETHER!

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### NOTES

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