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## MARRIAGE POLICIES

*THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY IS ONE OF the most significant experiences for you and the entire Christian community. It should be a reverent and happy occasion. An important part of your preparation is spiritual. Regular attendance at Sunday Mass as a couple, frequenting the Sacrament of Penance and daily prayer is central to your belonging to our community of faith and your preparation for receiving this sacrament of the Church. We need you, just as you need us, for it is only together that we are the People of God. The priests of this parish are here for your benefit. Feel free to contact them for Confession and/or spiritual direction.*

*The following policies are provided in order that your preparation will be as orderly and complete as possible. The items listed below must be accomplished as you prepare for your marriage. **\*For record retrieval purposes, all communication to the parish must indicate the date of your wedding.\****

## ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH.

*Assumption Parish Priest:*

*Rev. Jose Maria A. Corvera, Pastor*

*Assumption Parish Deacon:*

*Deacon Ernie Trujillo*

### Parish Membership:

It is expected that either the bride or the groom is a registered member of the parish, either as an individual or through their family. If you will be living in the parish after the wedding, please inform our parish office by becoming a registered parishioner.

### Priest/Deacon:

The priest/deacon who will witness and bless your marriage will guide you through the various stages of preparation. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with him and arrange for the necessary appointments. Together you will gradually decide on all the elements of the celebration of your marriage. A Nuptial Mass, with the Liturgy of the Word, Rite of Marriage and Liturgy of the Eucharist, must be performed by a priest, while a Nuptial Blessing Outside of Mass, which consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage, can be performed by either a deacon or priest. As Catholics, we should receive the Sacrament of Marriage within the Rite of the Mass. You will also decide, with the priest, on the number of participants - their part and place in the celebration, the reading selections, and prayers.

### Pre-Cana:

The Church requires that you attend either a *Pre-Cana* session at Assumption Parish or a neighboring parish or an *Engaged Encounter* weekend offered in a neighboring Diocese. *Engaged Encounter* information can be found at [www.engagedencounter.org](http://www.engagedencounter.org). We also request that you attend a course titled "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage" by registering at [www.joyfilledmarriagenj.org](http://www.joyfilledmarriagenj.org) or enrolling in an online Pre-Cana course at [www.catholicmarriagepreonline.com](http://www.catholicmarriagepreonline.com). To register for the on-line course you must first obtain permission from the priest or deacon who will marry you. It is your responsibility to register for one of these programs. The fee for Pre-Cana at Assumption is \$100 per couple. Please register early, as sessions are only offered twice a year, in the Spring and in the Fall. You must submit a copy of your Pre-Cana certificate to the priest preparing you.

### Visiting Clergy:

Visiting priests or deacons are welcome to perform your marriage. Let the parish know when you reserve your wedding date. The visiting priest or deacon **must** contact the pastor **within a month of the reservation in writing** stating they will complete all the documentation and paperwork required. It is also requested that a letter stating he is a priest or deacon in good standing be provided by the diocesan office in which he serves. Visiting clergy are obligated to perform weddings in accordance with the parish policies. We ask that you provide him with a copy of this document. They are also expected to take care of all pre-marital instruction meetings and to arrange and conduct the rehearsal. A visiting minister or rabbi is welcome to participate in an inter-faith marriage.

### Documents Required:

1. Baptismal Certificates of both parties, including non-Catholic Christians, must be received by Assumption Parish within six months of the wedding date. Contact your church of Baptism and ask them to: provide a **Baptism Certificate** with the church's raised seal, and include **annotations** on the back indicating the reception of Holy Communion, Confirmation, Annulments, etc. Annulments, if applicable, must be annotated to prove freedom of marriage. A Confirmation certificate is only necessary when the date of Confirmation is not annotated on the back of the Baptism certificate. Ask your celebrant if he prefers documents be mailed to Assumption Parish or brought with you at the time you meet with the priest or deacon.

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2. Mixed marriage. If the marriage is between a Catholic and non-Catholic Christian, you must complete an application, which we provide, for Dispensation from Disparity of Worship. This will be done in the presence of the priest or deacon who will be witnessing the marriage. The Catholic party must make a promise to raise their children, to the best of their ability, in the Catholic faith. A Freedom to Marry affidavit form will also be necessary in the case of the non-Catholic Christian and/or then on-Baptized to prove freedom to marry.
3. If either party has had a previous marriage annulled, a copy of that decree of annulment must be provided. In the case of either party being previously married but not yet annulled, that marriage needs to be annulled before they can proceed. If you are in need of an annulment, this process will take time, therefore, contact the priest as soon as possible. We will also need the civil decree of divorce from that prior marriage(s). If prior spouse is deceased, please provide certificate of death.

### Civil Requirements:

State Law requires a Marriage License. Within one month before the wedding the couple should apply to the License Bureau in the municipality of the bride. You must be accompanied by one witness over 18 years old. Call the Bureau to find out costs and any other requirements. The license will be issued three days after the application is made. **Bring the license to the rehearsal.** Do not fill it out; that will be done by you and the celebrant the night of rehearsal. After your wedding, it will be returned to the Town of Florence so that your marriage will be civilly registered.

### Date and Time of Your Wedding:

Wedding dates are given on a first come, first-served basis. Weddings are scheduled to avoid conflicts and congestion, therefore, punctuality is more than a courtesy, it is an *absolute necessity*. Weddings may be scheduled only at times which will not conflict with parish functions; i.e., no weddings will be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. on a Saturday. Due to the scheduled Saturday Evening Mass, it is imperative that all wedding parties finish their picture-taking **no later** than 4:15 p.m.

### Optional Unity Candle:

Lighting of the Unity Candle is optional. If the couple decides that they want to include the Unity Candle, after consulting with the priest, they must purchase their own Unity Candle. Bring the Unity Candle to the rehearsal and leave it with the Celebrant.

### Optional Symbolic Gift for the Poor:

It is an option to bring a medium sized basket of non-perishable food items to be carried up to the Celebrant during the Offertory procession of the Mass.

### Optional Presentation of Flowers to Mary:

It is traditional to place a bouquet of flowers at the Statue of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; again, if you chose to do so, advise your florist. They will be delivered to the church with all other flowers.

### Rice/Confetti/Rose Petals/Bird Seed/Balloons:

Your guests may *not* throw rice, confetti, rose petals or bird-seed. Balloons are also not acceptable. For insurance reasons, it is absolutely forbidden to do so and there *are NO EXCEPTIONS*. Bubbles or small bells as "favors" are nice substitutes;

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### Alcohol & Drugs:

We prohibit champagne, wine or any other alcoholic beverages from being served or consumed in front of the Church, on the sidewalk, or anywhere near the Church premises before or after the wedding. Please let the limousine driver know of this policy. People who are intoxicated or under-the-influence of drugs will be prohibited from entering the church, this includes those in the wedding party. If the bride or groom are under-the-influence, the wedding will have to be re-scheduled as they cannot sufficiently make an act of consent for a valid marriage to take place.

### Flowers:

Arrange with any florist of your choice. Nothing may be taped, stapled or tacked-up anywhere in the Church. It is recommended using large elastic bands for securing decorations to the pews. There are 30 center pews. We suggest that you check with our office staff to see if there are any other weddings scheduled for the day of your wedding. It may be possible to contact the other party and share the cost of flowers. Generally, we recommend two large and "loose" flower arrangements placed in the Sanctuary.

The flower arrangements are to be left in the Church after your wedding. For insurance reasons, a runner is *not* permitted in the Church. Fire code prohibits candles, lanterns or other such items on the pews, in the aisles or in the sanctuary. Again, for insurance reasons, rose petals may *not* be thrown anywhere inside or outside the Church.

### Wedding Invitations:

The correct name of our church to be used on your invitations is - "*The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Parish*". The address is 221 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Florence, Arizona 85132. Directions to the church can be found on the parish website.

### Programs:

Upon request, we will provide you with a Wedding Mass or Nuptial Blessing Outside of Mass format to guide you in preparing a program for your wedding.

### Rehearsal:

The date and time of your wedding rehearsal will be set by you and the priest/deacon and based on the availability of the church. All persons participating in the marriage ceremony are needed at the rehearsal **Impress on all the need for** punctuality. There may very well be other rehearsals scheduled that evening for other weddings.

Bring to the rehearsal the Marriage License issued by the Town Clerk (without anything written on it by anyone other than the Town Clerk). The documents will be signed in the presence of the priest or deacon. Remember State Law forbids the priest from celebrating any wedding for which he does not have in his possession a marriage license from the civil authorities.

The Music Director assists the Celebrant on the day of the wedding by directing the "Seating of the Mothers," the "Entrance of the Groomsmen" and the "Wedding Procession of Bridesmaids and the Bride." The Director follows the directions received from the priest and knows how the priest rehearsed the wedding party, Everyone is expected to follow directions given to them conforming to what the priest and couple have previously planned.

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## Liturgical Music Required for the Ceremony:

Assumption Organists and/or Cantors may be requested at weddings. If you wish to have a friend and/or relative sing or play an instrument during your wedding in addition to the liturgical music provided by our Director of Music, you **MUST** make these arrangements with the Director of Music. A guest vocalist or instrumentalist is certainly welcome to perform at your wedding ceremony. The guest is required to provide their own music and the music for the organist. Keep in mind that this celebration of Marriage is a Sacrament and all music chosen for the sacred liturgy, vocal and instrumental, must be in keeping with the sacred nature of the sacrament and must follow the rubrics of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. Certain secular texts are appropriate for the reception, but not in the sacred, liturgical setting of the Church. The Director of Music is theologically and professionally prepared to instruct you in planning the musical selections for the Ceremony. The Director of Music, Liz Myers, can be reached at 520-868-5940 or email: [assumptionbvmflorence@yahoo.com](mailto:assumptionbvmflorence@yahoo.com). Mrs. Myers will contact you about the Bridal Music and appointments to plan your wedding.

## The Cost of a Church Wedding:

The cost of a wedding for parishioners at Assumption is \$200. The cost of a wedding for non-parishioners is \$500. Two hundred dollars for parishioners or \$500 for non-parishioners, covers the cost of the physical plant and must be paid to the Church at the time you secure your wedding date. This check, should be made payable to *Assumption Church*. This check should also be made out to *Assumption Church*.

It is appropriate to give a gift check in the amount of your choosing to the priest or deacon in recognition of their help and time spent with you in preparing for your wedding. In addition to the required services of Assumption Church's Director of Music, Cantor and Organist, some couples choose to hire harpists, trumpeters, violinists or bag-pipers. and any fees that result are contracted independently between the couple and the additional musician(s).

## Photographer:

You must inform your photographer of the following Policies of Assumption Church governing picture-taking and video filming:

1. Use of floodlights (for film/video recorder) must be kept to a minimum.
2. Video recorders are restricted to certain areas of the Church.
3. The photographer may not, under any circumstances, enter the Sanctuary.
4. The photographer is expected to respect every part of the Ceremony or Nuptial Mass, such as sacred readings.
5. The changing of film is not to be done in the Church proper, rather it may be done in the vestibule or some other enclosure.
6. There must be a minimum of motion by the photographer in the Church, even as he or she tries to find spots from which the best pictures can be taken.
7. The photographer, like any other guest, is expected to dress appropriately for the wedding, not in casual or sloppy clothing.
8. The photographer must introduce himself/herself to the priest/deacon before the wedding begin.