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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:***

***Assumption Parish Deacon:***

*Rev. Jose Maria A. Corvera, Pastor*

*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 we 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.catholicmarriagepreponline.com.](http://www.catholicmarriagepreponline.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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1. 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.
2. 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 maybe 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 8th 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.