

Wedding Plans?

A "How To Guide" that enables you to plan a wedding day that is reverent, beautiful and memorable for all.



CONGRATULATIONS!

You are about to embark on the most beautiful and challenging time of your lives. This informational guide is intended to walk you through the necessary steps leading up to your big day.

Church Requirements

All Catholic persons considering marriage ought to be registered and practicing Catholics, receiving the sacraments and contributing with your time, talent and treasure to the needs of the parish. If you are not, it is a beautiful time to start!

Will you celebrate your Marriage within Mass or in a Ceremony?

Mass: For the marriage between two Catholics, a mass is usually celebrated

Ceremony: For mixed marriages between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, a ceremony is celebrated with all the same elements except the Eucharistic Prayer and Holy Communion.

Will you receive Holy Communion? - For Marriages where the Eucharist is celebrated

For Catholics: Catholics can and should fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist. NOTE: The reception of the Sacrament of Confession prior to the day of the wedding is expected for all Catholics as a wonderful way of preparing for this special moment .

For Other Christians: We welcome all of those Christians who are not fully united with the Catholic Church. It is a consequence of the sad divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend the invitation to receive the Eucharist

Those not receiving the Eucharist are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord and with one another, by making a Spiritual Communion.

Begin Your Plans

Schedule an appointment with a priest or deacon at least one year before your proposed wedding date.

Setting the date cannot be done until there is a meeting with a priest or deacon. **Please do not set a date at the venue for your reception before talking to a Priest or Deacon.** The church may not be available on the day you desire. Most weddings are celebrated

on Saturdays at either 12 noon or 2:00 pm. Please note: There is always a possibility of having 2 weddings on the same day. There may also be a funeral in the church in the morning. Other times need to be discussed with the priest or deacon. Weddings are not normally scheduled on Sundays. ***Saturday afternoon weddings DO NOT fulfill Sunday mass obligation and so you still ought to attend Mass on Sunday after your wedding day.***

Choose the priest or deacon you wish to celebrate your wedding. If you choose a priest or deacon not of the parish, he will be responsible for all of the prenuptial preparations including collection of all necessary documents. Priests or deacons who are relatives or a close friend of the couple are most welcome. However, any Priest or Deacon from outside the Diocese of Allentown will need to provide a letter of good standing for his Bishop at least 3 months in advance of the wedding date.

Non-Catholic clergy are always welcome at your wedding at Holy Infancy and can be incorporated into the liturgy. Please discuss this however with your priest **before** you extend this invitation to your clergyperson just to make sure we are clear on what is expected.

Inform the priest or deacon witnessing your wedding immediately if you plan to invite another clergy to attend. The priest or deacon will let you know the extent of participation by the guest clergy.

Rehearsals - Rehearsals will normally be on Fridays at 5:30 PM or 7:30 PM. If your wedding is scheduled for a Friday the rehearsal will be held on Wednesday or Thursday.

You must be on time for your rehearsal.

Decorations - if there are no other celebrations occurring in the Church after the 8:00 AM Saturday morning Mass, you may decorate the church after 9:00 AM. If there is a funeral that morning or there are two weddings in the same day, someone from your family or friends should be delegated to decorate 1 hour prior to the wedding and let the priest know when they will be there.

You are responsible for decorations. NO TAPE IS TO BE USED ON THE PEWS. ONLY tie string is to be used to hang bows/flowers on pew and must be purchased by the each wedding party. NOTE: If there are 2 weddings on the same day you may want contact the other party about sharing decorations.

Organist/Musician

If you would like an organist/musician to play at your wedding, it is your obligation to contact the person to set fees and meetings as necessary.

Photographers

Please alert your photographer that they will be permitted a maximum of one half hour to

take pictures inside the church after the wedding. If you anticipate a long reception line in the church, it might be advisable to have the reception line at the reception hall rather than the church. This will provide more time for pictures. If you are late to the church for the wedding, this may lessen your amount of time for taking pictures.

NOTE: Photographers are not permitted to stop the procession for posing shots and are not permitted in the Sanctuary during the ceremony (i.e. they must stay off of the marble floor area).

Video taping *without* flood lights is permitted.

It is important to remind all members of the wedding party that they are in the House of God and proper reverence for the sacredness of His presence is observed.

Courtesy Items

BE ON TIME- out of respect for everyone involved, you must not be late. ***If you are late*** your wedding Mass or Ceremony may have to be altered. For example the Celebrant may need to reduce a Mass to a Ceremony with no Eucharist and some of the other parts and/or music may be omitted.

For safety reasons balloons, rice, confetti, bird seed, grass seed, etc. are not permitted.

Flower petals are acceptable but must be picked up by the wedding party immediately after the Wedding Mass/Ceremony.

No animals allowed in church except for trained Service Animals

Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on parish property.

Sacrament of Penance

Catholics should make a good examination of conscience and go to confession before their wedding so that they can enter into this holy covenant receiving fully the graces of this Sacrament. Confessions are heard on Saturdays 3:30 – 4:30 PM and 30 minutes before daily Masses. If you cannot make those times, contact the parish priest for an appointment. If there is time after the rehearsal the priest may be able to offer confessions for the wedding party, but sometimes this is not possible.

Wedding Offerings

Church Offering**\$\$\$\$ for active members who are registered**
\$\$\$\$ for non-parishioners

Organist Fee **set by organist**

Incarnation of Our Lord

617 Pierce St.

Bethlehem, PA 18015

610 866 3391