

WELCOME!

Congratulations on your prayerful discernment to be joined in Holy Matrimony
in the Catholic Church.

The Church takes great care and concern in the preparation of each couple who are entering into
the Sacrament of Marriage.

Our Pastor, Staff & Members are here to support you, while providing the resources and
guidance as you begin your lifelong journey together.

The contents of this packet is not intended to answer all your questions, but it is our hope that it
will provide you with a basic understanding of what you may expect from our Church, as well as
what the Church expects of you.

"You will reciprocally promise love, loyalty and matrimonial honesty. We only want for you
this day that these words constitute the principle of your entire life and that with the help of
divine grace you will observe these solemn vows that today, before God, you formulate."

-Saint John Paul II

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

SELECTION OF DATE & TIME

All required documents must be completed in order to reserve your ceremony/rehearsal dates, according to Church & Presider schedule.

Weddings are scheduled on Friday from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm except on every 1st Friday. Saturday weddings are scheduled no later than 1:00 pm.

Weddings are not scheduled on Sunday's, Holy Days, Lent, Advent, Solemnities and the Sacred Triduum. You should always check the availability of the Church & Presider before committing to a date. A prescheduled venue does not automatically reserve your wedding date. Your wedding date is scheduled by the availability of the Church and Priest, and all preliminary documents have been completed.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are scheduled on the evening before the wedding, and should take no more than 1 hour. Thursday rehearsals begin at 7:00 pm.

The wedding party, including parents of the bride/groom need to be in place 15 minutes before your scheduled rehearsal.

There are no rehearsals scheduled on the 1st Friday of every month.

Wedding Coordinator:

Donna Hardtke (253) 863-5526

Penny Yoro (253) 255-3018

VISITING PRIEST are welcomed to preside at your wedding. Please confirm with your Marriage Preparation coordinator so proper arrangements can be made.

CHURCH FORMS, CERTIFICATES & DOCUMENTS

FREEDOM TO MARRY

The Canonical Prenuptial Investigation Form- 29.1 is the couple's own statement regarding their desire, freedom and commitment to marry as well as the 29.2 statement of a witness, must be completed before a wedding date is set.

SACRAMENTAL RECORDS

Baptismal certificates are required, and should bear a date indicating it was obtained within the past 6 months from the Church of baptism. If one party is baptized in another faith, a copy of that baptism is also required.

When contacting the Church, request that all Sacramental notations be included.

DECLARATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL COURT

Is a letter granting a marriage nullity by request, and decided by the Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese Office of the Marriage Tribunal.

Contact our office to schedule an appointment with our Marriage Tribunal Advocate.

253-863-2253

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The bride and groom must be present and at least 18 years old to obtain a marriage license. The earliest you may purchase a marriage license is 60 days prior to the ceremony and no later than 3 days before the ceremony.

Pierce County Auditor's Office

2401 S 35th St Room 200 Tacoma WA M-F 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

253-798-7435 \$65.00 (cash only)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

Contact our main office to schedule two separate appointments with the Marriage Preparation Coordinator and Pastor to begin preparations.

Both bride & groom must be present at all scheduled appointments.

The requirement for marriage preparation at St. Andrew Church is subject to nine months.

FOCCUS

Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study, is a self diagnostic inventory to help couples discover more about themselves and their unique relationship.

It is a communication tool and not a test nor a predictor of marriage. The content covers elements of successful marriages, careers, lifestyle, finances, children, values and ideals of marriage.

Upon completion of the inventory, the couple will then meet with a FOCCUS counselor to discuss results.

PREPARING TO LIVE IN LOVE

Is a parish program of marriage education and formation for couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church.

The program has two phases, with a total of 7 sessions. Couples entering the marriage preparation program are required to complete both phases.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

NFP is the preferred practice for all Catholic couples, and a requirement for completion of marriage preparation.

You will be introduced to theology of the body and practical application.

A meeting with our NFP counselor can be scheduled soon after meeting with our Priest or Marriage Coordinator. **Joan Cox 253-863-3828**

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Schedule follow up or ongoing counsel with our Priest or Marriage Counselor. Contact our main office for more information.

253-863-2253

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is recommended and encouraged for the practicing Catholic throughout preparations and before the ceremony.

LITURGY & MUSIC PLANNING

"Preparing The Roman Catholic Wedding Liturgy" is given to couples and is designed to assist in planning their Wedding Liturgy.

Music selections for a Catholic wedding must be appropriate and suitable for the liturgical celebration. Select music standards are available on CD's to help you decide. Songs that are not in our repertoire must be approved by our liturgist/ Priest. No exceptions. Pre-recorded music is never permitted. Musicians, accompanist and cantor's outside of St. Andrew, must be approved as well.

Sacred Liturgy & Music Preparation
Amy Gallwas 253-826-3859 or 253-861-6936
music@standrewsumner.org

THE MARRIAGE RITE

The Rite of Marriage of the Catholic Church

1. The Rite of Celebrating **Marriage During Mass** is used when both the bride and groom are active and participating Catholics. This is referred to as the "Nuptial Mass", and is modeled after the Sunday Mass. This Rite is celebrated after the homily. The bride and groom are the ministers of the Sacrament. The priest is the witness for the Church.
2. The Rite of Celebrating **Marriage Outside Mass** is when a Catholic marries a person from another faith, baptized or unbaptized. In the positive spirit of ecumenism, great care must be taken to respect the integrity and faith of both people in interfaith marriages. This Rite is preferred for interfaith Marriages because it contains elements in which bride and groom, their families and friends can participate.

I. RITE OF CELEBRATING MARRIAGE DURING MASS

THE INTRODUCTION RITES

- Gathering of the Assembly
- Procession
- Penitential Rite
- Gloria
- Opening Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

- The Old Testament Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily

THE MARRIAGE RITE

- Address and Statement of Intentions
- Consent and Exchange of vows
- Blessings and Exchange of Rings
- Prayer of the Faithful

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Preparation of Gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Nuptial Blessing
- Sign of Peace
- Breaking of the Bread
- Communion
- Prayer after Communion

THE CONCLUDING RITES

- Blessings
- Dismissal
- Recessional

II. RITE OF CELEBRATING MARRIAGE OUTSIDE OF MASS

THE INTRODUCTION RITES

- Gathering of the Assembly
- Procession
- Greeting
- Opening Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Old Testament Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily

THE MARRIAGE RITE

- Address and Statement of Intentions
- Consent and Exchange of Vows
- Blessings and Exchange of Rings
- Prayer of the Faithful
- Nuptial Blessing

CONCLUDING RITES

- The Lord's Prayer
- Blessing
- Recessional

THE SEATING OF GUESTS AND THE PROCESSION

Wedding liturgies usually begin with a full liturgical procession which includes the entire wedding party. We encourage the bride and groom to enter with both of their parents, or family representatives as a part of this procession. This makes a very strong statement regarding the family unit which differs from the popular custom of the bride on her father's arm alone, a custom that comes from the Middle Ages when marriages were arranged and the bride was viewed in terms of property being exchanged. Since every family situation is different; we recommend that couples give serious thought early on as to whom they will walk with in the wedding procession.

Entrance Procession

Altar Servers (for Mass)
Priest/Presider
Bridesmaids - Groomsmen
Maid/Matron of Honor - Best Man
Groom with parents
Flower Girl
Ring Bearer
Bride with parents

Exit Procession

Bride and Groom
Maid/Matron of Honor - Best Man
Bridesmaids - Groomsmen
Altar servers
Priest/Presider
Parents
Congregation

PARTICIPANTS

The Faithful - are the guests that you have invited to the celebration. The faithful take an active part in the celebration and so their role is not to be neglected or thought of as mere spectators, but witnesses to your union.

The Celebrant - the Priest who leads the faithful in prayer to God and presides at the exchange of vows,

The Bride and Groom - as ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage, it is your consent and exchange of vows that forms the focus of this celebration.

Maid or Matron of Honor and Best Man - assist the bride and groom and stand as official witnesses to the ceremony. Ordinarily they are family members or close friends who wish to publicly associate themselves with your vows of commitment to each other. They are also active participants in the celebration of the Liturgy and also sign the Marriage License following the ceremony.

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer (optional) - must be aware of their role and able to fulfill it. There is only one Flower girl and one Ring bearer.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - are lay women and men who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion.

The Servers - function as the cross-bearer and candle-bearers, assist the celebrant as book-bearer and prepare the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Servers are needed for a Nuptial Mass only.

The Lector (Reader) - proclaims the Old and New Testament during the Liturgy of the Word. The Lector also leads the General Intercessions.

In honor of our Catholic traditions and Sacred space, modest attire and proper decorum of all participants will be appreciated.

FLOWERS AND ARRANGEMENTS

The interior of St. Andrew is an awe-inspiring setting for any Liturgy. Very little is needed to enhance the Church for the celebration of Marriage. The following guidelines have been provided to help you as you prepare for the celebration.

Altar flower arrangements are assembled by a representative of Altar Society/volunteer. Flowers are arranged to coincide with the liturgical calendar.

The Unity Candle is not a prescribed element of the Marriage Rite and therefore is not permitted during the Marriage Liturgy.

Cultural traditions need to be planned with our Sacred Liturgist.

Use of flowers or bows may be used on the pew ends or chairs. Notify your florist that tape may not be used to attach to the pews or chairs. They should provide you with décor clips.

Aisle runners, balloons, or any other informal party decorations are not in keeping with the dignity of the Church's Liturgy and may not be used.

PHOTOGRAPHY- please give this form to your photographer

To maintain a prayerful atmosphere during the Sacred Liturgy, we provide the following guidelines:

We have a 1 hour time frame for still photographs before the ceremony, and 1 hour following. Photography for Saturday weddings must be done before the ceremony.

Participants need to be ready for the different picture and should not congregate in the Church sanctuary but wait in their designated dressing rooms or outside to be called in for pictures.

You are most welcome to take pictures outdoors, weather permitting.

Flash equipment and floodlights are not permitted during the Marriage Liturgy.

As soon as the procession has entered the Church, camera should be in place, and the photographer may not be in the aisle. Roaming video cameras are not permitted. Do not stand on pews or other furniture, nor use tape to secure electrical cords. etc. to the pews.

The photographer and videographer may not enter the Sanctuary during the Liturgy.

Photographers and videographers must dress in attire appropriate to the dignity of the ceremony. It is your responsibility that your photographer, family and friends adhere to these guidelines.

ALCHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are never permitted in the Church or on Church grounds. The bride and groom and their wedding party are expected to practice respectable decorum. Should it be noted that any controlled substance is determined, the Presider will cancel the wedding or the wedding party member(s) involved to not participate in the ceremony.

HOSPITALITY AND DRESSING ROOMS

The nursery room is available for the bride and bridesmaids to gather and prepare prior to the celebration. You may request a room for the groomsmen if needed. The wedding party is welcome to bring light snacks and water and to make available in their designated dressing rooms. We respectfully request that no food or drink be brought into the narthex or sanctuary of the Church.

A Prayer for an Engaged Couple

LORD GOD,
The source of all LOVE,
the WISE PLAN of your providence
has brought this couple together.
As they prepare themselves
for the SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
and pray for your GRACE,
grant that, strengthened by your Blessings,
they may GROW in their RESPECT for another
and CHERISH each other
with a SINCERE LOVE.

We ask this through CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

-The Book of Blessings

“And the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh”

Mark 10:8