

Guide for Celebrating Weddings at Assumption

Welcome

Assumption is a regular parish like many other churches in Syracuse but it is also quite unique because of its long history, the many alums associated with its school and of course the beauty of this sacred place. You are welcome!

People get married at Assumption because of one of three usual reasons. From each of these flows a course of action.

A. Assumption is already my parish

This is where I worship on Sunday. I belong here because of proximity to the church or I have chosen to come here and have registered in the parish.

1. Meet with the friar for initial meeting and set a date for the ceremony and the rehearsal
2. Complete the Pre-Marriage Inquiry form
3. Receive the wedding planning book
4. Get newly issued baptismal certificate from the Church of Baptism
5. Provide proof that the Catholic Parties are confirmed.
6. Secure Witnesses Testimony that the couple is free to marry.
7. Arrange to take a marriage preparation course.
8. Schedule appointments for instruction with the friar preparing you for marriage.
9. Meet with Presider of your wedding to plan the ceremony

B. I belong to another parish

1. Meet with the pastor of the church closest to you to get his permission in writing to get married at Assumption.
2. Ask the pastor if he would like to do the "paper work" there and transfer it to us for planning and holding the ceremony or whether he would prefer we do the paper work here.
3. Once the initial paperwork is done meet with the friar to set a date for the ceremony and the rehearsal.
4. If you would like your own parish priest to witness your marriage at Assumption then you continue with him for the planning of the ceremony.
5. If you would like one of the friars here to celebrate the ceremony you would continue with us to plan the wedding.

C. I don't really have a parish yet

1. If you live in the greater Syracuse area and you don't have a parish yet and would like to consider being part of Assumption you would follow the instructions above for section A of this guide. We will be happy to work with you to both develop your faith life and help you prepare for marriage. We want to make sure that you understand the spiritual significance of a marriage in the Catholic Church.
2. If you live outside of the greater Syracuse area and don't have a parish yet, the first step would be to find yourself a parish where you live and then follow the instructions above for section B.

Civil Requirements

A New York State license is required for the wedding. These are valid for 60 days after it is issued. Contact the municipal clerk in any NY city to obtain one. The license must be submitted to the parish 1 week before the wedding.

Day & Time of Weddings

Most weddings take place on Saturdays at either 10AM or 1PM and possibly 1:30PM. Because our evening mass at 4:00pm. By Diocesan regulations, weddings are not held on Sundays. We also are doing more and more weddings late Friday afternoons.

Ceremony

We will work with you to create a meaningful celebration in keeping with the Church's tradition. You have a lot of choices to make and people to include in the ceremony. Please remember that the ceremony must begin on time.

1. **Music:** You must use our organist and cantors. There is a fee for this. If you would prefer a different type of music like guitar please talk with the friar. The key is that the music must be liturgical music and must be done by professionals. The presider reserves the right to review the music. The "Here Comes the Bride" march is not used at Assumption because of its origins and significance.
2. **The Entrance:** Well over 50 years ago the Church revised the way in which weddings are supposed to begin. Rather than focusing on the bride and her entrance the focus is on the couple, bride and groom. The liturgy ideally calls for them to be there to greet their guests and then process down the aisle together to begin their life together in presence of their parents, family, friends and God. However, the traditional option of the bride accompanied by her father or parents is acceptable. The celebrant will work with you to plan this and the rest of the Mass or ceremony.
3. **Non Catholic Customs:** Often people have seen customs at weddings that do not reflect our Catholic ritual. We do not use the "unity candle" or such customs which were actually designed for

the wedding reception. Ethnic customs which are approved by the bishops of that country, may also be used. We also do not allow for the throwing of confetti or rice in or outside the church.

4. **Wedding Coordinator:** Assumption has a wedding coordinator who will assist with the rehearsal and be present for the wedding to make sure that everything begins smoothly. If you have your own wedding planner they may help you in all things but not with the ceremony or be involved during the wedding itself. Our wedding planner is paid for her service.
5. **Photography:** We appreciate that you want to have nice pictures and/or video of your wedding day. Most professional photographers and videographers understand our Catholic worship. However we have strict guidelines for them so that they do not distract. They cannot be in the way or noticeable. They must meet the presider at least 15 minutes before the wedding.
6. **Decorations:** Flowers are welcome and they may be taken for your reception after the ceremony. Please consult with our Wedding Coordinator.

We do not allow any runners, carpets, lighting, scaffolding or other alterations to the church.

Please note that during special season such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter the church will already be decorated. Again, please consult our Wedding Coordinator with any questions.

7. **Offerings:** No one will be denied a wedding in the Catholic Church because they cannot afford it. That being said, the offering for the use of the church should be consistent with other wedding expenses – photography, flowers, receptions, etc. The offering for the use of the church is \$800 with an additional non-refundable \$200 deposit. The balance is paid two weeks prior to the wedding. This fee is to maintain the beauty of the church and to keep it heated and cooled in season. Please note that the church fee does NOT go to the celebrant.

The Wedding Coordinator fee is \$100 and should be paid directly to her.

The fee for the music is set by the music director and usually begins at \$200, with an additional fee for the cantor. Please pay the music director and cantor directly.

8. **Contact Information:**

Fr. Jude, Pastor	315.422.4833	fatherjude@assumptionsyr.org
Fr. Nader, Associate Pastor	315.422.4833	friarnader@assumptionsyr.org
Ms. Joanne Amato, Wedding Coordinator	315.451.9015	
Mr. Owen Hucke, Music Director & Organist	315.422.4833	owen@assumptionsyr.org

Marriage Preparation Courses: www.syracusediocese.org