

## ***Assumption/ St. Anthony Wedding Planning Policy***

### **Wedding Readings:**

- The couple will choose the readings based on the guide e-mailed to them about 3 months prior to the wedding.
- The readings must be chosen from the selections which are appropriate to the wedding ceremony. If there is one that is not on the given list it must be approved.

### **Weddings Music:**

- Wedding songs must be “sacred hymns or songs” that are approved by the Church and the pastor.
- The wedding songs must fit the celebration and theology of the Catholic Church and the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- They must also be approved by the musician.
- If there are songs that are desired that are not on the given list from the Church, they must be approved by Becky Haag and the musician.
- Special attention is asked to be given to keeping the whole day a celebration of God faithfully uniting the couple in marriage by being mindful of the songs that are played at the reception. If hymns honoring God and the beauty of marriage are played at the ceremony, and then at the reception songs are using profanity and blasphemous lyrics toward God and our neighbor, there is a contradicting message that is being sent to those in attendance.

### **Wedding Practice:**

- There must be a practice for the ceremony sometime in the days or day leading up to the ceremony
- The wedding vows and the exchange of rings should be memorized.
- All individuals who are in the wedding must be present at the practice (including ushers, lectors, servers). Gift bearers should be invited. We can provide servers, if desired.
- One person designated to help gather the wedding party into the back of the Church before the ceremony and assist with logistics is preferred.
- Father Aaron will hear confessions after the practice. The engaged couple is especially encouraged to go, but confessions are offered for anyone at rehearsal.

### **Wedding Ceremony:**

- If a flower girl or ring bearer will be involved in the wedding they must be at least 5 years old. They must be able to walk without assistance up the aisle and to their place.
- The procession must consist of the wedding party only walking as individual members, without carrying or pulling a person, prop., or item that would not correlate to the dignity of the wedding ceremony.
- The (new) Rite of Marriage has asked that a “Unity Candle” not be part of the actual ceremony. However, if the couple chooses to have one lit at the reception (perhaps after the meal prayer) they are free to choose that option.
- No alcohol is allowed in the Church or parish center the day of the wedding. Any wedding party member who is found to be drinking before the ceremony will be asked to excuse themselves from the ceremony.

- Father Aaron will announce before or during the Mass that to receive the Eucharist, one must be a practicing Catholic in a state of grace, which means at least going to Mass weekly.

**Photography:**

- The photographer should not be seen during the ceremony. The photographer may stand off to the side or use the choir loft. No flash is allowed during the ceremony.

**Decorations:**

- If decorations are desired in addition to the seasonal décor at church, a plan must be submitted via e-mail.