

WEDDING REHEARSAL GUIDE

Make every effort those involved in the wedding ceremony are present at the rehearsal and arrive on time. Be mindful that Friday afternoon traffic presents delay issues, so please plan accordingly.

The couple must bring the Marriage License to the rehearsal. A WEDDING CEREMONY CANNOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT A CIVIL LICENSE. The Best Man and the Maid/Matron of Honor sign the License at the rehearsal while the Bride and the Groom are present. The License is signed by the priest. After the wedding, a copy is given to the couple, a copy is sent to the Clerk of the Peace office in Wilmington by our coordinator, and a copy is put in your wedding file which becomes part of our wedding file archives.

If young children are part of the Wedding Party, they should be accompanied by an adult during the rehearsal and wedding. Depending on the age, it is not recommended that small children sit on the altar with the wedding party but go to sit with parents or other relatives.

Your readers should have copies of the readings: First reading (Old Testament); Second Reading (New Testament); and the Universal Prayer. Your priest may handle this but be prepared just in case.

St. Anthony's Wedding Coordinator is required if you are having a priest outside our Parish and if requested by our priest. She will open and close the church for the rehearsal and wedding day; assist the priest with any questions or concerns; line-up the wedding party in the vestibule for procession into church; cue the Music Director when to start and assist the bride, groom and families with any needs.

Financial payments must be submitted at the rehearsal, unless previously handled. The wedding coordinator will collect these fees. The Church fees and payment information are listed in the Marriage Preparation Guide. Stephen Adams (sadams@sapde.org) will give you his music fee, the cantor's fee and a name for those checks. The Wedding Coordinator's fee is \$125, either check (Christine Hostler) or cash. We do not have altar servers. If there are any questions regarding the costs, this must happen prior to the rehearsal.

Bring any wedding items, i.e. programs, pictures, etc., to the rehearsal. This eliminates the worry of doing so on the actual wedding day. They are secured in the Church sacristy overnight. Our wedding coordinator will present them to be distributed.

The order of the Bridal Procession should be arranged before the rehearsal. For your reference, the traditional procession order is diagrammed on the next page.

The Groom and the Best Man should arrive approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ hour prior to wedding time. They go to the Sacristy and wait with the officiating priest who leads them out into the church when procession starts. The bridal party should arrive at least 10 minutes before the wedding. Our wedding coordinator will have them come into the vestibule and line up for the start of the wedding procession. Also, for the rehearsal, decide if you want the groomsmen to walk the bridesmaids down the aisle from the vestibule, at the halfway mark in the church, or meet them at the altar. Whichever you prefer to do is good.

Please note: We have only one restroom located in the vestibule. Please be conscious of this. Many times, the wedding party arrives at the church needing to use the restroom, which then delays the wedding start.

TRADITIONAL ORDER OF WEDDING PROCESSION

Parents of the Groom

(_____ / _____)

Mother of the Bride with her escort

(_____ / _____)

Bridesmaids (walking singly and meeting the Groomsmen in the middle aisle or meet the altar)

(Groomsmen may also escort the Bridesmaids all the way up the aisle)

1st (_____ / _____)

2nd (_____ / _____)

3rd (_____ / _____)

4th (_____ / _____)

5th (_____ / _____)

6th (_____ / _____)

(Ring bearer and Junior Bridesmaid/Flower Girl)

(_____ / _____)

Maid/Matron of Honor

(_____)

Bride and Father or another Escort

(_____ / _____)

Before arriving at the Church for the rehearsal please arrange the Bridesmaids and the Groomsmen with each other, and in order that they will walk in the procession.

Other matters to be considered for the rehearsal but may not be necessary

1. Will Grandparents enter in a formal manner with music? (_____)
2. Is handicapped space necessary? (_____)
3. Are there separate Ushers from the Groomsmen? (_____)
4. If you have programs, who will give them out? (_____)
5. Have you assigned guests to bring gifts to the altar for a mass? (_____)