

St. Anne Catholic Church



Planning a Wedding

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Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of St. Anne Parish, I would like to congratulate you and assure you of our prayers as you begin your preparations for the Sacrament of Marriage.

The following guidelines have been prepared to help you in your preparation for marriage. They are the product of many years of experience in dealing with couples who are about to be married and the questions which they may have about weddings in the Church. Planning a wedding can be, at times, very hectic. We hope that these guidelines will make this period of preparation a little bit smoother and enable the bride and groom to relax and to prepare spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Marriage.

Your preparation for marriage begins **at least four months** in advance of the day you would like to marry. You should plan to meet with one of the parish priests to discuss your desire to marry. The priest will be happy to give you any further information that you may need.

As you begin to consider all of the plans to be made and the many details to be taken care of, we urge you to follow carefully the procedures outlined in this booklet. We think that you will find that they will not only make these days easier for you, but will also make your wedding more beautiful and spiritually enriching.

May the Lord who has called you to this wonderful Sacrament of Marriage bless you in the days and weeks ahead and may your wedding at St. Anne Church be one of the happiest and most beautiful memories of your life.

Jacemiel J. McCarthy
Pastor

What Do We Do First?

- *When should you contact your parish priest to begin preparations for marriage?*

At least **FOUR (4) MONTHS PRIOR** to the proposed date of your wedding. (Diocesan Policy 4.5.2) this requirement is designed to assure adequate time for an assessment by the priest that the couple is ready to marry and for a fitting preparation for the celebration of the sacrament.
- *When can a couple set the date for their wedding?*

The date will be tentatively placed on the calendar after the priest has interviewed the couple and has determined that their request for marriage is legitimate and reasonable.
- *What kind of documents should a couple be ready to supply in order to be married in the Catholic Church?*

Current baptismal certificates for both parties must be provided.

All previous marriages (civil, non-Catholic or Catholic) are considered valid. A party is free to marry in the Catholic Church only if the former spouse has died or an **annulment** of a previous marriage has been obtained. **A copy of the decree of nullity**, which will certify that the party is free to marry again, must be provided.

A civil marriage license must be obtained from the Probate Court of the county in which the marriage is to take place or in which one of the parties has a permanent residence (provided that it is within the state of Georgia). This license must be presented to the priest who witnesses the marriage by the third appointment. After witnessing the marriage, he will then sign the license and return it to the Probate Court.

Prepare for Marriage in the Church

- *What kind of preparation for marriage will a couple need?*

The following steps must be followed by a couple preparing for marriage:

- ✓ Initial appointment with the priest.
- ✓ Complete FOCCUS, which takes approximately 1 hour.
- ✓ Meet with Pastoral Assistant to review FOCCUS results.
- ✓ Attend marriage preparation program: “Your Marriage” This 2 day marriage preparation program is offered throughout the year. Registration is required.
- ✓ Second appointment with priest.
- ✓ Third appointment with priest to plan the wedding details. A Georgia marriage license must be given to priest at this meeting.



- *What else does the Church expect of a couple preparing to be married?*

For Catholics:

- ✓ Active participation in a Catholic parish, by being registered, by participating in Sunday Mass, and by supporting the parish
- ✓ Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance before your wedding day.

NOTE: Cohabitation prior to marriage is contrary to the moral teaching of the Church and is unacceptable. It is presumed that couples who are cohabiting will live separately prior to marriage.

Planning the Wedding Day

- *Where should the wedding take place?*

The marriage of two Catholics ordinarily takes place in the parish church of the bride, or of the groom.

Permission will not be granted for marriages to be celebrated in a private home, out-of-doors, or in other such settings.

- *Is it permissible for a non-Catholic Minister to take part in a Catholic wedding?*

Yes. We are happy to honor such requests and welcome ministers of other faiths to participate in this important day. The priest who is to perform the ceremony will make arrangements with the non-Catholic minister to participate in the ceremony in some way.

- *What sort of facilities are available at St. Anne Church for weddings?*

✓ Main Church: Seating Capacity – 700

✓ Our Lady of Mercy Chapel: Seating Capacity – 75

- *At what times during the day may a wedding take place?*

Weddings at St. Anne Church are celebrated usually on Saturdays at the following times:

✓ MORNING/AFTERNOON: No later than 3:00 PM

✓ EVENING: Not before 7:30 PM

Planning the Wedding Day

- *How should we plan the music for our wedding ceremony?*

All music for your wedding must be approved by one of our parish musicians. All couples should contact one of these parish musicians:

✓ Mrs. Pat Jasinski—706-323-0228

✓ Mr. Elwood Madeo—706-327-5943

The fee for the musician is \$100.00. This fee includes one meeting to discuss the musical program for the wedding, one rehearsal prior to the wedding, and the wedding ceremony itself. Any additional rehearsals required with visiting vocalists or instrumentalists will be an additional \$25.00 per rehearsal for our parish musicians. If you should need a soloist, you may contact Meg Burkhardt at 706-527-1599, Beth Campbell at 706-457-1573, or Bryant Perryman at 706-327-9079. Soloist fees are \$75.00.

All fees for musicians must be paid at least one week prior to the wedding rehearsal.



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- *What kind of music is appropriate for a wedding in a Catholic Church?*

Since a wedding is a worship service, sacred music should be used. Classical music is also appropriate. You may suggest music for use during the service, but all music must meet with the approval of our accompanist.

NOTE: Pre-recorded music, such as CDs or tapes, will not be allowed at a wedding celebrated at St. Anne Church.



- *Should a couple hire a bridal consultant to assist in the preparation for the wedding ceremony?*

Mrs. Barbara Perryman is St. Anne Church's bridal consultant. For a \$75.00 fee, she will assist the wedding party at the rehearsal and at the wedding. A bridal party sometimes wishes to employ another consultant to assist with wedding gown, dresses, parties, etc. Because this person would be unfamiliar with the style and ritual for weddings at St. Anne, only Mrs. Perryman will be able to assist at the actual rehearsal and wedding. You may contact Mrs. Perryman at 706-327-9079.

Planning the Wedding Day

- *What are the regulations concerning photographs and videos of our wedding?*

We understand that photographs are important mementos of your wedding. These photographs should be taken before or after the wedding ceremony.



The photographer may take pictures without flash bulbs during the ceremony. However, no pictures may be taken from within the sanctuary area, or from behind the priest and wedding party. The photographer should not move around.

The photographer may use flash bulbs to take pictures of the wedding party as they process into and leave the church.

NOTE: No pictures with flash bulbs may be taken by relatives or guests once the wedding ceremony has begun.

(The ceremony begins when the mother of the groom is escorted into the church.) Flashes of light, noise of time exposures, movement of camera equipment or of the photographer, loading and unloading of film, etc. are distracting and disturb the dignity of the worship service.

The photographer should be appropriately dressed, in the same manner as the guest at the wedding.



A videotape of your wedding may be made. However, the following regulations must be followed:

- ✓ All video equipment must be set up no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the wedding.
- ✓ The camera may be placed in an unobtrusive manner in either the left or right corner of the church. The placement of the camera is subject to the approval of the priest. **Once placed, the camera may not be moved during the wedding ceremony.**
- ✓ Cameras may not be set up anywhere in the sanctuary area.
- ✓ No floodlights or any other special lighting may be used during the ceremony.
- ✓ No wires may be laid down across any aisle in the church.

It is your responsibility to make sure these regulations are known to your photographer. Should there be any questions, please ask the photographer to contact the parish office at 706-561-8678.

Planning the Wedding Day

- *What type of flowers and decorations are appropriate and acceptable for a wedding at St. Anne Church?*



For a wedding in the main church, one large arrangement of flowers should be placed upon the pedestal beneath the cross on the sanctuary wall. Other arrangements of flowers are permitted, but nothing may be placed in such a way as to restrict freedom of movement in the sanctuary.

You have two altar flower options:

- Each weekend, the altar is decorated with fresh flowers. If you would like to use this weekly arrangement for your wedding, you may do so by calling the church office at least 3 weeks prior to your wedding date. To request a particular color scheme, there is a charge of \$100.00.
- You may use your own florist but you must leave the arrangement on the altar for weekend Masses. Please notify the church office at least three weeks prior to the wedding so we can make arrangements to cancel our regularly scheduled flower delivery.

Palms, ferns, and other green plants are

recommended, but not in excess. They may be placed in the sanctuary area, so long as they do not interfere with the liturgical furnishings or with freedom of movement.

No additional decoration may be placed on the altar.

The candles around the altar may not be moved. Also, the seasonal altar coverings must remain in place.

Candelabra may be used if desired. St. Anne possesses two candelabra which you are free to use.

The total number of candelabra should not exceed four (4). The florist should furnish candles for the candelabra, and plastic must be placed beneath it to catch any dripping wax.



The lighting of a “unity candle,” while not a part of the Roman Catholic Ritual for marriage, is allowed. The church has a unity candle stand, however, you must provide the candles yourself.

Flowers or bows may be placed on those pews to be reserved for family and relatives. However, no tacks, nails, glue or tape which would damage the finish of the pews may be used to attach the flowers or bows.

NOTE: Please contact the parish office regarding your floral arrangement plans.

The Rehearsal

Rehearsals must be scheduled with the priest. They normally take place on Friday evenings and may be scheduled between 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Rehearsals should begin on time and all members of the wedding party should **arrive fifteen (15) minutes beforehand.**

***NOTE:** It is strongly recommended that no child under the age of seven (7 years old) be asked to participate in the wedding as a ring bearer or flower girl. Younger children often become confused, tired, frightened, etc.*

Members of the wedding party should remember that they are in a holy place, dedicated to the worship of God. In view of the setting, members should dress appropriately (no shorts, etc.).

The use of alcohol before or during the rehearsal is prohibited. Persons violating this prohibition will be asked to leave the church.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the building.

Food should not be brought into the building.



The Wedding Day

A Bride's Room is available for the bride and her attendants.

The bride should designate a friend to see to it that the Bride's Room is cleaned, and all belongings removed, after the wedding.



The groomsmen/ushers should come to the church already dressed for the ceremony. They may wait in the commons area prior to the wedding.

Please make all of your guests aware of the following restrictions:

- **Throwing of rice, bird seed, or confetti is prohibited on church property.**
- **Smoking is prohibited in the church building.**
- **No one will be allowed to bring alcoholic beverages into the church building. (Receptions held after the wedding in the hall are an exception.)**

The Reception

- *Is it possible to have a wedding reception in the St. Anne Visitation Hall?*



Yes. Visitation Hall (capacity 500 persons) is available for wedding receptions. The fee for rental is \$400, plus a security deposit of \$100. For those who are registered in St. Anne Parish and who have been contributing on a regular basis, the fee is \$300.00, plus a security deposit of \$100.00. Linens can be provided for an additional fee.

Should you decide to use Visitation Hall for your wedding reception, a Rental Agreement outlining the specifics for the hall will be reviewed with you by one of the parish receptionists.

- *When can Visitation Hall be reserved for a wedding reception?*

You should make the priest aware that you wish to use the hall at your initial interview. Your reservation will be tentatively placed on the church calendar until such time as all deposits and fees have been turned in to the church office, along with the contract for use.

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- *What arrangements must be made concerning caterers for a wedding reception?*

If Visitation Hall is used for a reception, the parish hostess, Mrs. Donna Tomayko, is contacted by the parish office. She coordinates the use of the kitchen and the hall's facilities. She will be happy to meet with the caterers and indicate to them the regulations concerning the use of the kitchen and the equipment available in Visitation Hall.

- *What are the fees and stipends which should be paid for our wedding?*

There is no fee for the administration of any sacraments of the Church. Therefore, there is no charge for the use of the church. If a couple wishes to make a donation to St. Anne Church on the occasion of their wedding to help pay for the upkeep of the church, we would suggest that a donation which represents a percentage of the cost of the wedding is appropriate. Parishioners who are registered and who participate in the Stewardship Program would not be expected to make such a donation.

The fee for the organist/musician is \$100.00. It is customary to offer a small gift to the altar servers who assist at the wedding. The suggested gift is \$5.00 to 10.00 each. It is also customary for a gift to be offered to the priest for his services. The suggested gift is \$50 to 100.

The Sacrament of Marriage

The sacrament of marriage is one of the Catholic Church's greatest gifts. The need to prepare for marriage carefully and intelligently has never been so important as it is today.

St. Anne Catholic Church is concerned about the quality of marriage preparation. We want to assist couples as they prepare to make one of the most significant and sacred decisions of their life.

If you have any questions that have not been answered by this booklet, feel free to contact a priest or the pastoral assistant at 706-561-8678.



Marriage Registration Form

Please fill out & return to the priest as soon as possible.

Female's Name

Age

Address

Email

Phone

Religion

Male's Name

Age

Address

Email

Phone

Religion

Wedding Checklist

- Make an appointment with a priest to confirm wedding date at least four (4) months in advance.
 - Complete FOCCUS instrument
 - Review FOCCUS results
 - Attend marriage preparation program: Your Marriage
 - Sent in registration form found in this booklet
 - Request current (within last 6 months) Baptismal certificates for both parties to present to priest
 - Provide copy of the decree of nullity to priest (if applicable)
 - Contact one parish musician and discuss music:
Pat Jasinski - 706-323-0228 or
Elwood Madeo - 706-327-5943
 - Contact St. Anne Parish bridal consultant,
Barbie Perryman - 706-327-9079
 - Contact church office regarding altar flower option
 - Fill out Rental Agreement and room set-up form for Visitation Hall (if applicable) at least 4 weeks in advance
 - Pay fees as outlined in this booklet and rental contract
 - \$100.00 security deposit for Visitation Hall
 - \$300.00 rental fee for Visitation Hall
 - \$100.00 fee to parish musician (if applicable)
 - \$75.00 fee to soloist (if applicable)
 - \$75.00 bridal consultant fee
 - Linen fee (if applicable)
 - Monetary gifts to altar servers and priest
 - Set up second meeting with the priest
 - Obtain Georgia Marriage License to present to priest
 - Third meeting with the priest to finalize wedding details
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St. Anne Catholic Church

St. Anne Parish, a Catholic community of faith, is joyfully committed to living the Gospel through worship and prayer, education and stewardship.