

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE WEDDING

APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIEST

The couple should make an appointment with the priest at least 6 months prior to the anticipated wedding date. If either party has been married previously, an annulment is required. This process may take up to one year to complete. No date may be scheduled until the annulment is obtained.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR MARRIAGE

1. BAPTISMAL RECORD

1. A certified copy of your baptismal certificate with notations is required. This means that you must contact the parish of your baptism and ask them to send you a copy of your baptismal certificate, with the parish seal stamped upon it. This record must be no more than six months old. The procurement of this certificate by the non-Catholic party is encouraged -at the least, the date and location of baptism is needed.

2. PREPARATION

Attendance at a diocesan approved marriage preparation program:
FOCCUS –pre-marriage inventory and meetings with priest.

3. MIXED MARRIAGE PERMISSION

If this will be a marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic, please let us know at the time of your initial meeting with the clergy. Permission from the Bishop's Office must be given for a mixed marriage.

4. DELEGATION

If the Catholic party is registered in another parish, he/she will have to contact their pastor at that current parish and request "delegation" from him. The clergy of St Anthony's Church need written permission, which is "delegation", from your current pastor to preside at the ceremony. Please have this sent to the officiating priest of your marriage.

5. MARRIAGE LICENSE

The couple must obtain a civil marriage license from Essex County in advance of the wedding, not more than sixty (60) days before the wedding, nor less than 24 hours before the wedding. The marriage license should be given to the priest no later than at the wedding rehearsal.

6. MARRIAGE INFORMATION FORM AND CONTRACT

1. The Pre-nuptial investigation papers. These will be filled out during one of the visits with the priest or deacon arranging the wedding.

2. Each of you will be required to have two (2) witnesses to complete affidavits. The parents of the bride and groom can be witnesses.

PRACTICES NOT ALLOWED IN THE CHURCH

RECEIVING LINE AND GUEST BOOK

Receiving lines and the signing of the Guest Book are to be held at the reception only, not at the church. Please relay this information to your invited guests via the wedding program. The wedding party must vacate the church by 3:00 p.m. for Saturday weddings to allow for 3:00 p.m. Confessions and 4p.m. Mass.

RICE, FLOWER PETALS, BIRD SEED

No rice, flower petals, birdseed or balloons or anything else that will litter the grounds may be used as part of the wedding celebration inside or outside of the church.

FEES AND STIPENDS

FACILITY USAGE STIPEND

The facility usage fee is to assist the parish with the costs incurred during the time of the wedding rehearsal and the wedding day, including utilities and any maintenance required prior to or following the wedding ceremony.

The fee for active-registered members is \$400.00; the fee for those who are non-active/non-registered is \$500.00. This fee is to be paid no less than seven days before the scheduled marriage.

PARISH PRIEST

The stipend for the clergy is a donation made in view of the time and service the clergy has provided in the preparation process. The amount should be in proportion to the other expenses budgeted. If the couple is coming from out of town to be married at St Anthony's Church, it is customary to offer the clergy a minimum of \$200.00 for their assistance.