

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

901 NE 2 Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
954-463-4614
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Pastoral Staff:

Reverend Michael Grady, Pastor
Reverend Attila Frohlich, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Msgr. James Dixon, in Residence

Parish Wedding Coordinator:

Mrs. Pauline Favreau 954-463-4614
stanthony@bellsouth.net

Principal Organist/Choir Director:

Mr. Michael Bernard 954-771-6583
bernardmichael@bellsouth.net

***A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required when scheduling your wedding.**

Full payment of stipends are due at the Rehearsal in form of cash or money order.

Welcome to Saint Anthony Catholic Church

The staff at Saint Anthony is happy to help you with the preparation of your wedding. Our Policies and Procedures are in place to ensure that the celebration of the ***Sacrament of Marriage*** be of the best theological, liturgical and artistic quality and that it be a memorable moment in your life. The celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage is an action of the entire church in whose presence you commit yourselves to one another. Because the celebration of marriage is worship, it is above all, communal. And because it is communal, every effort should be made to enable the assembly to participate in a full and active manner. Everyone present should be able to hear, see, speak, sing and pray.

General Policies and Procedures

1. Couples who wish to be married at Saint Anthony Catholic Church should contact the parish office no less than 6 months before the proposed wedding date. Couples need to make an appointment with the Parish Secretary to discuss marriage preparation and the availability of dates.
2. **If you are not a member of Saint Anthony Parish and wish to have your wedding celebrated at Saint Anthony Church, a letter of permission from your parish Priest is required. Your Parish will be responsible for all marriage preparation.**
3. Weddings are celebrated on Saturday afternoon at **12:00 noon** and **3:00 p.m.** ***There are no Saturday evening weddings at Saint Anthony Church.***
4. Rehearsals are scheduled for Friday evenings at 5:00 p.m. and last approximately 1 hour. If two weddings are scheduled on the same day then the second rehearsal would be held at 6:00 p.m. Because the church schedule is often tight, it is imperative that rehearsals begin on time with all members of the wedding party and liturgical ministers present. The **Marriage License** is to be brought to the rehearsal and given to the Sacristan for its proper completion.
5. There are no limits or restrictions on the size of the wedding party, although the Church strongly suggests that children participating in your wedding be at least 5 years of age and of sufficient maturity to process down the aisle without fear.
6. The wedding staff will assist you in your preparation and be present for the liturgy. The parish office will also see to it that all paperwork is in order. ***If you have hired a wedding planner to help you, please understand that the Church wedding staff will coordinate all liturgical preparation, the rehearsal and the celebration of the liturgy.***

7. On your Wedding day the Mass/Ceremony must ***begin on time***. It is required that the groom arrive 45 minutes prior and bride 30 minutes prior as well as all members of the wedding party. **LATENESS MAY RESULT IN A SHORTER OR CANCELLED MASS / CEREMONY.**
8. For safety reasons, ***rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals and balloons*** are not allowed in the Church or on the Church campus. Bubbles are permitted outside of the Church following the Ceremony. **Flower girls may carry flowers, but may not drop petals on the floor.**
9. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are permitted on the Church campus. All Church buildings are smoke free.
10. There is not a Bride's Room in the church. We recommend that hair and makeup be done before arriving at the Church. A public restroom located in the *vestibule* of the Church is available for last minute touchups.

Planning the Wedding

Saint Anthony Church will provide you with a ***Together for Life*** workbook. This resource will guide you through the selections/options available to you in preparing your wedding liturgy. You will need to have your selections/options ready when meeting with the Music Director. **Please choose one of the following from each section:**

- First Reading: (B-Section) #2, 5, 8**
- Second Reading: (D-Section) #1, 5, 10**
- Gospel Reading: (F-Section) #2, 6, 8**
- Prayer of the Faithful: (J-Section) #1, 2, 3**

Marriage Preparation

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Recent Original Baptismal Certificate with Church seal (issued in the last six months)
- Pre-Nuptial Questionnaires (A forms)
- Freedom to Marry Witnesses (B forms) (2 for bride and 2 for groom)
- Certificate of Attendance at Pre-Marriage Instruction Class
- Marriage License from the state of Florida
- In case of ***prior marriage***, one of the following is required:
 - Death Certificate (of former spouse)
 - Decree of Annulment
 - Decree of Nullity

Catholics marrying a non-baptized person will need a Matrimonial Dispensation. This dispensation will be arranged by the Priest.

If you live outside of the Archdiocese of Miami, check with the staff at your home parish about marriage preparation programs provided in your area

Liturgical Environment

The Church is a place of **dignity** and **prayer**; it is a privilege to enter her doors to pray. We ask that you, the wedding party, and your guests respect the Church and all other properties, and keep talking to a minimum whisper.

Since the Roman Catholic Church follows a liturgical calendar, there will be certain liturgical symbols and decorations present during the course of the church year (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter). This seasonal environment is intended for all liturgical celebrations during that time of the year, including your wedding. The existing environment will not be changed or removed for your wedding.

Flowers used for the wedding celebration are not merely decorative but are offered for the further honor and glory of God. If you wish flower arrangements from your wedding may be left in the church. *You may choose to dedicate your flowers in memory, in thanksgiving, or in honor of a relative or friend.*

Policies for the Florist

- ❖ **The florists can arrive 1 hour prior to the wedding time. (No exceptions)**
- ❖ **No aisle runner is permitted**
- ❖ Bows may be attached to the pews with ribbon, string or rubber bands. No pins, wire, hooks or tape may be used.
- ❖ The Baptismal Font is reserved for the Sacrament of Baptism. Flowers may be placed on the floor in front of the font, but never on the font.
- ❖ The florist is responsible for removal of all **boxes, paper and other debris** related to the flowers.

Policies for the Photographer/Videographer

- ❖ The **photographers/videographers** will not be permitted in the Church until 1 hour before the wedding.
- ❖ The amount of time allowed for photography in the sanctuary following the wedding is **30 minutes**.
- ❖ Tape is not to be used on the walls or floors.
- ❖ The liturgical environment is not to be altered in order to accommodate the photo shoot. **No liturgical furnishings, e.g. candles, chairs, etc., are to be removed.**
- ❖ The church is a house of worship at all times, and is to be respected as such during photography. Dress and behavior should be respectful.
- ❖ The use of flash photography during any liturgical celebration, including weddings, is prohibited.
- ❖ **A signed form is required by the photographer/ videographer stating that they agree to follow the guidelines of the Church. These forms are available on the Parish website.**

Wedding Preparation Timeline

at least 6 months prior to wedding

- Contact parish office
- Call for an appointment with the Parish Wedding Coordinator
- Set wedding date on church calendar
- Call for updated Baptism Certificates (Catholic parties)
- Complete FOCCUS Instrument
- Decide Marriage Preparation format (Mass / Ceremony)

3 to 6 months prior to the wedding

- Attend Engaged Couple Class
- Discuss musical options with the Church Music Director
- Submit request for additional musicians
- Complete archdiocesan paperwork with wedding coordinator
- Review of FOCCUS with Priest

1 to 3 months prior to the wedding

- Submit photographer/videographer form
- Finalize liturgy plan with Church Music Director

during final 30 days

- Make sure that your wedding file is complete with the wedding coordinator
- Obtain Marriage License from County Clerk's Office