

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC PARISH

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

Reverend Rolando Cabrera, Pastor
Reverend Carmelo Romanello, Parochial Vicar

Parish Wedding Coordinator:

Mrs. Pauline Favreau 954-463-4614
churchoffice@stanthonyftl.org

Principal Organist/Choir Director:

Mr. Michael Bernard 954-465-0580
bernardmichael@bellsouth.net (contact 3 mos. prior to wedding date)

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

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.***
No Exceptions
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.
5. Items that are to be brought to the rehearsal are: **Unity Candle and/or Programs.**
The couple must place 2 postage stamps on the return envelope for the marriage license. It is not the responsibility of the Church to provide postage.
THE MARRIAGE LICENSE AND ALL FEES MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE PARISH OFFICE 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING DATE.
6. 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.

7. 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.*

8. 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.* *Initials:* _____

9. 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.*

10. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are permitted on the Church campus. All Church buildings are smoke free.

11. **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. *In the Together for Life book you are to choose only the following:*

First Reading: (B-Section)
Second Reading: (D-Section)
Gospel Reading: (F-Section)
Prayer of the Faithful: (J-Section)

Marriage Preparation

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Recent Original Baptismal Certificate with Church seal
(issued within 6 mos. of wedding date)
- Pre-Nuptial Questionnaires (A forms)
- Freedom to Marry Witnesses (B forms) (2 for bride and 2 for groom)
(Signature of witnesses must be notarized)
- Certificate of Attendance at Pre-Marriage Instruction Class
- Certificate of Attendance for Natural Family Planning Course
- Completed Fully Engaged report (to be discussed with Priest)
- Marriage License from the state of Florida (Must be at the Parish Office 2 weeks prior to the wedding date)
- 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. **Initials** _____

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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **EVERYONE MUST BE OUT OF THE CHURCH BY 4:15 P.M.**
- ❖ **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.**

This form must be signed by the Bride and Groom and returned to the Parish Office.

We have read, understand, and agree to the Policies and Procedures as stated for weddings celebrated at Saint Anthony Catholic Church.

Bride

Groom