

Church of St. Anne
700 W Bridge St.
Wausau, WI 54401
Phone: (715) 849-3930



Wedding Celebration Guidelines



The Wedding Celebration

Music & Musicians Please find enclosed a list of parish musicians and singers who are willing to assist at weddings. You are free to contact them or someone else you may know of. Musicians receive a stipend for their assistance. Check with them as they set their own amounts. Because you have decided to make your wedding a faith celebration, the music should reflect that choice. Music during the ceremony should be Christian. Popular secular music may be used as preludes or postludes. Your musician, if they have played at other weddings, will no doubt be able to play many of the beautiful contemporary Christian songs that have been written for weddings for you to choose from.



Pictures/Video: Please find enclosed our "Wedding Photography and Videography Policy." Please have your photographer review it and sign it. Bring it to the priest at your last meeting with him. People attending the wedding should be informed that taking pictures during the liturgy is inappropriate. This can be done by inserting a note in the wedding invitation or wedding service program.

Because of other services in the church we may need to limit the time the photographer takes for posed pictures. Frequently there are baptisms Saturday morning at 10:30 ending at 11:30 am. And we have a 4:00 pm liturgy on Saturdays for which we need the church ready and parking lot empty by 3:30 pm. Please review these times with your photographer and plan accordingly.



Living Plants Flowers: If you plan to have flowers for the wedding, we prefer they be living plants or fresh cut flowers. However bring to the Lord what you are able to.

Bride's Room: The family room off the gathering room of the church serves as a dressing room for the bride and bridesmaids. The groom and groomsmen normally come dressed for the ceremony. If they need to dress at the church as well there are several possibilities. Please consult with the priest.

Lectors: There are typically two scripture readings and petitions to be read. These usually are done by one or two family members or friends. The priest is also willing to read them. Ideally, the person would be someone who reads at their church. The readings should be given to them in advance for preparation.

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Servers: Usually we do not have servers at weddings. However, if you have relatives or friends who serve Mass, you are welcome to ask them. They should be present at the rehearsal.

Communion Ministers: If the wedding is celebrated in the context of the Mass and if there will be more than one hundred guests attending it would be helpful to have Eucharistic Ministers to assist the priest. Assistants would also make it possible to offer the cup. Family or friends who are Eucharistic Ministers in their parishes would be first choices for help. It is also possible to commission someone for this one special occasion.

Wedding Candle: The primary symbol of the wedding ceremony is your exchange of vows and rings. Different families may have other customs they would like to include in the celebration. The most common is the lighting of a unity candle. These are welcome though they should never take away from the focus on your vows. The parish can supply a candle or the couple may bring their own. (The cost to the parish for the candle is \$18)

Alcoholic Beverages: Making a vow requires a clear mind and an open heart. Standing as witnesses and supporters to someone making a vow also requires being clear of mind and open of heart. It is totally contrary to the spirit and purpose of the day to be under the influence of a mind altering substance at a wedding rehearsal or ceremony. We will not tolerate alcoholic beverages on the church premises before or after the wedding ceremony.

*****Clean-up:** When the service is completed, the ushers will be responsible for picking up service programs left behind in the pews, removing aisle runners, taking out empty flower boxes, corsage wrappings and any additional items brought in for the wedding. These must be removed before the next church service. The family room must be re-stored to its original order.

FEES

The parish does not charge a fee for a wedding. Money should not be a reason for not having the wedding in the Church. An offering of \$75.00 is recommended. This goes into our fund for works of charity. Often couples express their gratitude to the priest or deacon with a gift as well. In addition, in weddings where neither the bride nor groom are members of the parish we ask a \$150.00 security deposit. If the church is left in good order it will be returned to you in the week after the wedding. As part of the wedding preparations the couple takes a professional Marriage Inventory called The Foccus. There is a \$15.00 cost to have it stored.