

THROWING OF RICE, BIRDSEED, ETC.

We ask that you refrain from this practice, particularly for reasons of safety and maintenance. The launching of helium balloons not allowed, as Saint Andrew Church is located along the flight path for Erie International Airport.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The use of alcohol anywhere on church property or tobacco products within the church is prohibited.

BRIDAL ROOM

The bride and her attendants may use the Reconciliation Room, located near the West 7th Street entrance. Please use care in this space and return any furnishings to its original order before leaving.

PRIEST CELEBRANT NOT FROM SAINT ANDREW

If the priest celebrating your marriage is not from Saint Andrew, he should first receive permission from our pastor. He should make arrangements well in advance for the rehearsal and ceremony times for our Wedding Coordinator. The priest is also asked to complete all of the paperwork for our sacramental records. Any priests/deacons coming from outside the Diocese of Erie also need to provide letters of good standing from their respective Diocese. For further information, please contact our rectory office at (814) 456-6256.

FINALLY...

This pamphlet is intended to answer the commonly asked questions concerning your marriage celebration here at Saint Andrew. However, you also need to review your plans directly with the priest for guidance and approval.

The Sacrament of Marriage begins with your wedding ceremony. We at Saint Andrew desire that it be a good and holy beginning of a long life together. Therefore, these guidelines should be seen as ways to readily achieve that goal. We pray that this preparation be a time of faith in God's love and care, hope for a bright future life together and growing love for each other and for the Creator who has brought you to this special time.

CHECKLIST FOR THE ENGAGED COUPLE

- Tentative Wedding Date Set _____
- Priest / Celebrant selected
- Baptismal Certificates obtained
- Pastoral Musician contacted
- Lectors selected
- Photographer notified of Saint Andrew guidelines

NEEDED FOR THE REHEARSAL

- Date / Time _____
- All involved in wedding notified of rehearsal date and time (wedding party, parents, lectors, etc.)
- Marriage License
- Order of Procession worked out in advance
- Partners for procession determined
- Escort for Groom's parents selected
- Escort for Bride's parents selected
- Lector's readings rehearsed in advance

ADDITIONAL NOTES / COMMENTS



Marriage Preparation



Saint Andrew Church

1116 West 7th Street
Erie, PA 16502

Rectory Office
816 West 26th Street
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 456-6256

WELCOME!

The parish family of Saint Andrew congratulates you on your forthcoming wedding. The following notes will help guide you according to Church and Civil Law and Diocesan and Liturgical Guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MARRIAGE

Marriage is administered by the couple with the priest as witness for the Christian community. Thus both partners must be capable of giving and receiving the sacrament.

CHURCH ARRANGEMENTS

The Marriage Policy of the Diocese of Erie requires that a couple contact the parish priest as soon as they are engaged and no less than four to six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. The couple is required to meet with the priest to discuss the Sacrament of Marriage and be made aware of church teaching in this area. Also, the couple should obtain recently issued (<6 months) Baptismal certificates for the Catholic fiancés, which include notation of Sacraments, specifically any prior marriages in a Catholic Church, and declarations of nullity of prior attempts at marriage.) Other papers which together become your permanent marriage file must be completed and signed. The couple will also be required to take an on-line pre-marital inventory which will be used as a discussion tool to reflect on the various aspects of married life. The final meeting with the priest will review the actual wedding liturgy.

PRE-CANA

The Diocese of Erie also requires that couples complete a course in marital instruction called "Pre-Cana" (Engaged Encounter or Nova may be substituted.) A listing of times and places for Pre-Cana and Engagement Encounter may be found in the Diocesan website www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice.



TIME FOR WEDDING

The recommended time for your wedding is at 1:30 or 2:00 P.M. on Saturday. Saint Andrew Church will be open for the wedding attendants, musicians, florist and photographers at 12:00 Noon.

THE CEREMONY

When both partners in the marriage are Catholic, it is assumed that the ceremony will take place within the context of Mass. In interfaith weddings normally the ceremony is made up of a prayer service, Liturgy of the Word and exchange of vows. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is strongly recommended for Catholics prior to the wedding.

ENVIRONMENT

The decorations for the wedding ceremony are the responsibility of the couple. Floral arrangements should be tasteful and can remain in the church after the ceremony as a gift to the faith community. (Note: the center aisle of Saint Andrew Church is 94 feet long.) No item used should be attached to aisles, pews, walls, etc. in a way which could cause damage to the interior of the church. The practice of scattering flower petals in the main aisles as part of the procession is prohibited. If the couple wishes to have a program, please review it with the celebrant for approval before printing.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Lectors for the scripture readings may be chosen by the couple. Those chosen by the couple to read should be familiar with the proclamation of God's Word. Generally due to the size of wedding congregations, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are not needed.



MUSIC

The wedding liturgies celebrated at Saint Andrew utilize the Parish's liturgical musicians. The couple to be married should meet with the organist to plan for the appropriate music for the ceremony. The stipends should be given to the organist (\$150.00) and cantor (\$125.00) in advance of the wedding. Please acknowledge that the stipend to the organist and the Church cantor must still be paid (even if others are used) as that is part of their contract with the parish. Thank you.

FEES

For active parish members, there is no rental fee for the wedding. If non-parishioners desire to use Saint Andrew Church for their wedding ceremony, an advance fee of \$500.00 is expected. Our Wedding Coordinator will be present during the rehearsal and wedding to open/close the Church and prepare the altar. A stipend of \$100.00 is appreciated. All fees and/or gifts should be placed in envelopes identifying for whom the fee or gift is intended, and given to the priest/celebrant at the rehearsal for distribution.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and/or videography of the ceremony is the responsibility of the couple. Photographers/videographers should be advised that no equipment or personnel are permitted in the sanctuary area and that personnel/equipment must not obstruct or detract from the sacred and solemn nature of the wedding ceremony. Photography should be completed within a reasonable amount of time either before or after the ceremony with due respect for liturgical functions proceeding or following your ceremony.

