

SAINT ANASTASIA CHURCH WEDDING PREPARATION INFORMATION

Congratulations on the occasion of your engagement and upcoming wedding. At this time you will have many concerns and questions, so the information contained in this document will help to answer any questions you may have and direct you in the planning process.

SCHEDULING

It is advisable to make arrangements with the Church before scheduling your reception. Weddings are scheduled at Saint Anastasia on most Friday evenings and Saturdays. Weddings are never scheduled on Sunday. Friday afternoon/evening weddings can be scheduled at a time that is convenient to all parties. Saturday weddings can be scheduled anytime up until 2:00 PM. There are no exceptions to this rule.

PRE MARITAL INSTRUCTIONS

Premarital Instructions are mandatory. There are a number of options. Among them are...

A Marriage Preparation Course sponsored by the Family Life Bureau of the Archdiocese is offered once a month. This course offers an educational component designed to bring you the rich and engaging theological meaning of marriage in a way that you will find practical and relevant. This course is offered at different locations. The cost of the program is \$195.00. A schedule and explanatory pamphlet can be obtained at the rectory. For more information and registration go to www.archphila.org/evangelization/famlife/marriage.

A seven week program entitled **Preparing to Live in Love** consists of engaged couples meeting at the home of a married couple. These sessions are scheduled at the convenience of the engaged couples and the married couple. This program combines the benefits of a personal mentor with a comprehensive and experiential marriage preparation course based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Each session is packed with insights from the sciences and especially from our rich Catholic theology. Moreover, it is experiential, providing practical life skills, tools, principles and strategies while offering an authentic witness of a married couple sincerely living in love in a sacramental marriage. For more information you can visit the website at www.livinginlove.org or you can speak with our parish contact persons – Ruth and Bob Arata at 610-356-3118 or email at r.arata@verizon.net. Program cost is \$75.00.

A four week large group program called **Beginning to Live in Love** is offered in March and October at our parish school immediately after Sunday noon Mass. This program is a small or large group application of the same content and exercises offered through Preparing to Live in Love, the popular, life-changing, parish –based one-on-one mentoring program for marriage preparation. Key components that make this program effective are:

- The latest scientific research integrated with John Paul's Theology of the Body
- Practical life skills, principles, and strategies using an experiential curriculum
- A uniquely positive, proactive mindset that appeals to modern couples
- The authentic witness of joyful married couples who are passionately living in love.

For further information and registration see contact information above in the Preparing to Live in Love program information.

CANONICAL REQUIREMENTS/DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- A recently issued Baptismal Certificate each Catholic partner or some proof of baptism for each partner baptized in a Protestant church.
- Canonical dispensations/decrees of nullity (if necessary). The priest will advise you .
- Pre-Marital Questionnaires completed by each partner in the presence of a priest or deacon.
- Civil Marriage license from any county within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is issued at least three days, but not more than sixty days prior to the wedding.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

- The priest will present you with a book from which readings can be selected.
- All arrangements for music are to be made with the Music Director/Organist, Norbert Elbersen (610-604-4898) who you are asked to call when you set your date. The Music Director's professional fee is \$250.00 made payable to Norbert Elbersen. Should you wish a soloist there is an additional charge of \$200.00 for that person.
- It is the responsibility of the Music Director to review the selection of music to be certain that the music chosen is in accord with the liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.
- The Unity Candle is no longer used since the lighting of the candle detracts from the central dimension of the sacramental rite – the exchange of consent itself.
- Please advise guests to refrain from throwing rice, birdseed, confetti etc...
- Bows and flower arrangements cannot be taped to the pews since tape ruins the surface of the pews. If you order an aisle runner, the length of the aisle is 109 feet. Most people forgo the runner since it proves to be a hazard to anyone walking in the aisle.
- The Church Fee for Weddings is \$300.00 made payable to Saint Anastasia Church. Please bring the Church Fee and Marriage License to rehearsal. It is customary to include a gift of \$15.00 to each of the two altar servers.
- If you have any further questions please call the Rectory at 610-356-1613.