



D O M I N I C A N F R I A R S
S T . T H O M A S A Q U I N A S C H U R C H
144 NORTH FIFTH STREET · ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701-3583
TEL: (740) 453-3301 · FAX: (740) 453-0333

Marriage Preparation Guidelines

1. The date for the wedding cannot be confirmed until the engaged couple has a personal interview with one of the parish priests. It is not advisable to reserve a reception hall or photographer until the date has been confirmed by a priest.
2. It is a requirement of the Diocese of Columbus that all couples participate in a Pre-Cans program before marriage. It is also strongly encouraged that the couples attend a Natural Family Planning class together before the wedding. Please check with the priest for details and dates.
3. All Catholics must obtain a copy of their baptismal certificate or give permission to the priest to obtain it. The certificate must be dated within six months of the date of the marriage. The priest will inform you of any other document or questionnaires that required for marriage.
4. A wedding between two (2) Catholics must take place during a Nuptial Mass, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Ordinarily a Nuptial Mass is NOT celebrated when only one party is Catholic. A Unity Candle is NOT permitted during a Nuptial Mass since the Eucharist is the primary sign of unity and the candle is not part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage.
5. If you have a friend or relative who is a Catholic priest in good standing, you may have him witness your marriage provided permission is obtained from the pastor and/or the priest preparing you for marriage.
6. Attire is to be appropriate for the wedding and it is the policy of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish that there are to be NO visible tattoos. Any tattoo that would be showing must be covered, either with part of the garment or makeup.
7. TIMES FOR WEDDINGS
 - a. Saturday afternoon at 2:00 PM *only*
 - b. Saturday Morning at 10:00 AM *only*
 - c. Monday through Friday – speak directly with the priest preparing you for marriage.
8. Wedding Ceremonies and rehearsals may not interfere with other scheduled liturgical ceremonies in the church. No weddings may be celebrated on the Sundays

of Advent, Lent, and Easter, on Solemnities, on the days within the Octave of Easter, on All Soul's Day (Nov. 2nd), on Ash Wednesday, or during Holy Week.

9. Saturday afternoon weddings MUST BE out of the Church by 4:00 PM – NO EXCEPTIONS – so that the church may be made ready for our evening Mass.

10. FEES FOR ALL WEDDINGS

- a. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is to be paid to St. Thomas Aquinas Church for the use of the church. The fee is to be paid NO LATER than the night of the rehearsal.
- b. It is customary to give an extra gratuity to the priest or deacon performing the ceremony.
- c. A fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) is to be paid to the parish organist. This fee is separate from the fee paid for use of the Church.
- d. A singer at a wedding is paid directly by the wedding party in an amount agreed beforehand by the singer and the bridal couple. The singer must contact the parish organist as soon as possible in order to rehearse the music. ALL MUSIC MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ORGANIST AND THE PASTOR OR IT MAY NOT BE USED.

11. Contact the parish organist after confirming a date and time for your wedding. The organist will help you choose music that is appropriate. *We expect the parish organist to play for all weddings.*

12. RESPECT FOR CHURCH PROPERTY

- a. You are to instruct the photographer and/or videographer to speak with the priest before the ceremony to go over St. Thomas' expectations. Under no circumstances are they permitted in the sanctuary. Again, for an afternoon wedding you must be out of the church by 4:00 PM.
- b. Florists should arrange floral displays tastefully. *Absolutely no flowers are permitted on the altar of sacrifice.* If candelabras are used, the florist must put a large enough piece of plexiglass sheet underneath to catch the dipping wax. Flowers are considered a gift to the church and should remain following the wedding unless otherwise instructed.
- c. Flower girls may NOT toss real or silk flower petals while walking down the aisle.
- d. Bridesmaids may not carry lit candles down the aisle.
- e. Throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, blowing of bubbles, etc. is not permitted inside or outside of the church; reserve that for the reception; the ceremony is a sacred event.

- f. Please leave the church and all areas used by the wedding party the way you found them (i.e., please dispose of flower boxes, dress bags, pop cans, water bottles, gum, aisle runner, etc.)
- g. Consumption of alcohol by the wedding party especially the bride and groom will not be tolerated and may result in the ceremony not being performed.

13. RENTAL OF ST. THOMAS ACTIVITY CENTER

Please contact Mary Ann Ewart at (740) 319-0265, about fees and policies. The center can only be *after* you have a confirmed date and time for your wedding.

14. You must remember to bring your civil marriage license TO THE REHEARSAL. *A priest or deacon cannot legally officiate at your wedding without the license.*

The priests and the parish staff will do all we can to make your wedding a joyful, sacred and memorable day.

Sincerely in Christ,
The Dominican Fathers



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Acknowledgment of Marriage Preparation Guidelines

We have read and understand the requirements and guidelines we have received from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish concerning our upcoming wedding and we hold the Parish and its representatives harmless if we breach any part of these guidelines.

Bride

Groom

Date: _____

Priest



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Organist's Policy and Fees

The Parish Organist (if available) will play for all weddings in St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Due to the great number of weddings each year at St. Thomas Aquinas, as a courtesy, the parish organist is to be contacted immediately following the initial session with the parish priest in order to reserve the date and time of the wedding.

The organist's fee for weddings is One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars which includes consultation with the bride in selection (and approval) of the music, rehearsal with a vocalist (if one is desired), and the wedding ceremony. If additional time is required for a vocalist's rehearsal, or if there is more than one vocalist or instrumentalist, there will be an additional fee to be determined by the organist according to time involved. Fees should be paid prior to, or on the day of the wedding.

Out-of-town vocalists must rehearse for a wedding at least one week prior to the ceremony. There will be no rehearsals on the day before or the day of the wedding. If another organist (outside the parish) is hired to play for the wedding, the parish organist must be notified in advance in order to determine the qualifications of that person to play a pipe organ and to determine the appropriateness of the music to be played, both before and during the ceremony.

If no organ music is to be played, and the bridal couple wishes to hire other musicians, the parish organist and the pastor should be notified and the music played must be approved.

The Parish Organist for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish will cooperate fully with the couple to assure a truly beautiful, Catholic Marriage.

The Parish Musical Director/Organist is: Mr. Christopher McCloskey
(740) 453-3301 ext. 30