



Marriage Matters

St. Anthony's Church

5340 4th Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2v 0Z5

Phone: (403) 252-1137 Fax: (403) 255-7796

WELCOME. Weddings at St Anthony's Church are celebrated as part of our being a welcoming and caring community. Church members as well as visitors have to acknowledge and appreciate our own tradition and heritage of celebrating weddings as a Church sacrament as well as a public ceremony.

An INITIAL INTERVIEW with the wedding parties begins the process of documentation, including the setting of the date and time of the wedding celebration. Possible impediments/obstacles like a previous marriage are also discussed. You can email Fr Edmund at efvargas@shaw.ca or call the Office to arrange for the initial interview.

BOTH PARTIES MUST BE FREE TO MARRY. If one party has been previously married, no date can be set for the wedding unless a Declaration of Nullity has been obtained from the Marriage Tribunal Office. Marriages of young adults (20 yrs & under) need more advanced notice.

A MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE is required in the Diocese of Calgary which has designated the Catholic Family Services (233-2360) to conduct the courses for the parishes. Our parish also offers a marriage inventory called Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study (FOCCUS).

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES are required, dated after the initial interview, with pertinent notations and issued for marriage purposes to conform with the diocesan requirement to establish freedom to marry. You may contact the parish of your baptism for a copy. The non-Catholic party also needs to present a document to establish his/her religious affiliation, if any.

MUSIC has to be sacred and religious, in keeping with Catholic liturgy. You may contact our Music Director John Morgan for consultation by email iamjohnmorgan@gmail.com or by phone (403) 714-5200 or check out his website www.morganmusic.ca. He directs, supervises and approves all music details. Guest musicians have to coordinate and have their music repertoire approved by the music director. Taped music is not allowed. Please be aware that there are copyright rules governing words and music.

A MARRIAGE LICENSE (obtained at any registry office in Alberta and expires in 90 days after date of issue) must be submitted with the other requirements at least 45 days before the wedding, together with complete names, postal addresses & telephone numbers of the two witnesses (usually the maid of honor & best man). If the couple has been married civilly, a copy of the civil Marriage Certificate is required in lieu of the license.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS are the responsibility of the couple. Only fresh flower arrangements are to be used. You are encouraged to leave some for the weekend services. Aisle runners or extra candles like candelabras are not allowed for safety reasons. An arch is not allowed at the entrance or anywhere in the sanctuary. In using pew bows, use elastic ribbon or string to attach them. Adhesives or staples are not allowed. **NO CONFETTI**, rice, birdseed or flower petals are not allowed inside or within the church property. Flower girls cannot scatter petals as they come in or out of the church. Bubbles are not appropriate to be used inside the church. It is recommended that decorations be kept simple and tasteful.

CHILDREN involved in the ceremony should be at least be five (5) years old. The so-called **Unity Candle** ceremony is not included in the wedding ritual.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY. The designated photographer or videographer is asked to consult with the presider during the rehearsal or prior to the wedding. The back page indicates the designated areas for non-flash photography or video coverage during the ceremony. Friends and relatives are asked to put cameras away after the entrance procession and can resume taking pictures during the signing of register. No slave flash units or additional lighting may be used in the church. Livestreaming is also available for a fee.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is highly recommended for the Catholic parties as they make marriage a new beginning.

PUNCTUALITY is to be observed. The wedding party has to arrive not earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the start time of the wedding and leave the church parking lot thirty (30) minutes after the ceremonies at the latest.

VISITING PRIESTS. Permission from the bishop and authorization from the Government of Alberta are required for visiting priests to solemnize marriages. The visiting priest has to inform the office of his intention to officiate the wedding by e-mail, fax or mail so that required documentation is completed at least two (2) months before the wedding.

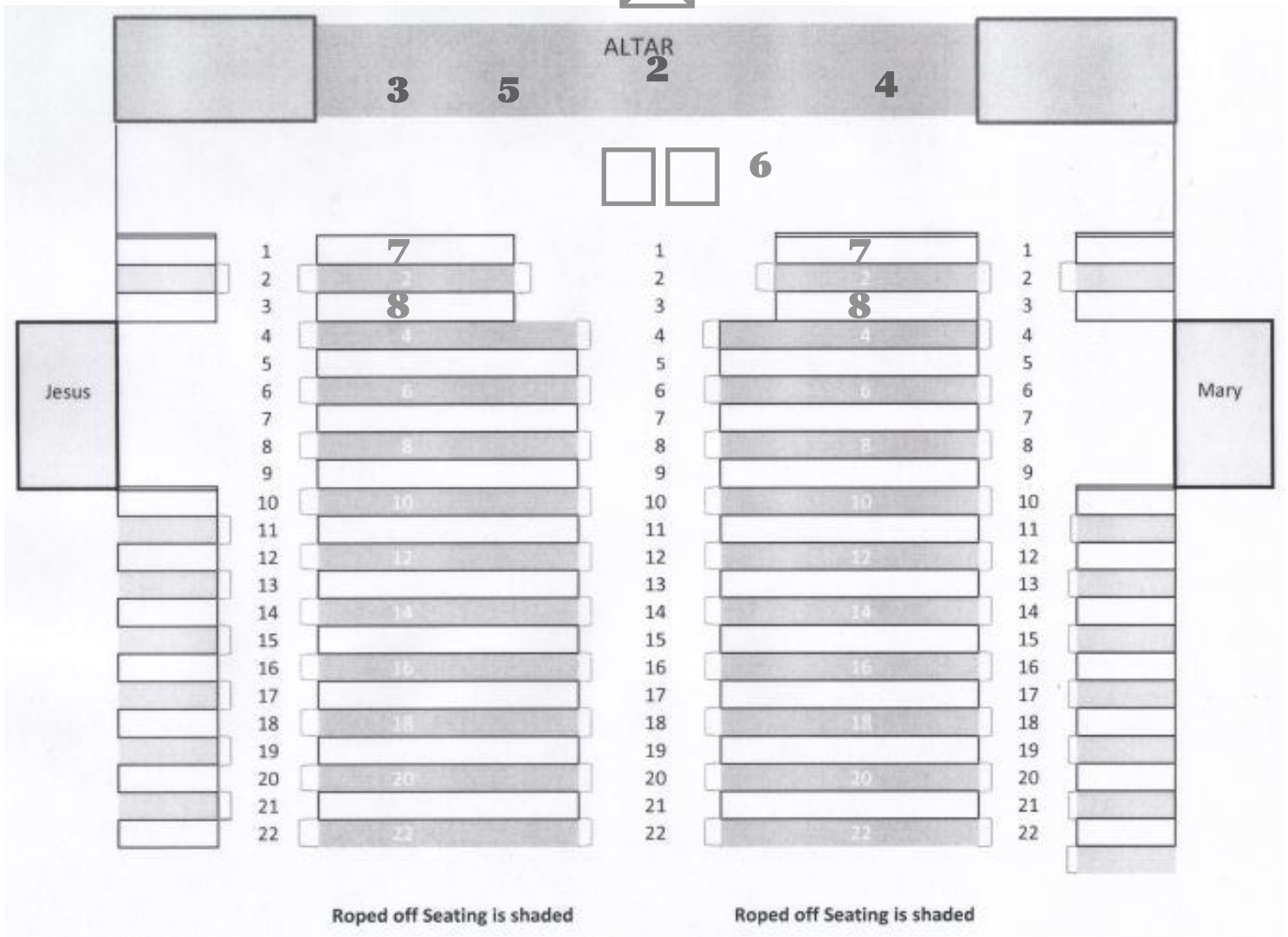
A THANKSGIVING DONATION is a voluntary offering made for the Church upkeep and maintenance. Standard fees are applicable for music performances and livestreaming. The honorarium/mileage for a visiting priest, deacon or denominational minister is the responsibility of the wedding party.

WEDDINGS FROM OTHER PARISHES. If neither party belongs to St Anthony's Church, written permission from the parish priest of the bride and/or groom, also indicating his willingness to help complete the wedding requirements, is required. In order to book the wedding, a copy of a completed FORM 1A and the Thanksgiving Donation are to be submitted. Other subsequent documents are to be forwarded periodically by fax or e-mail.

DOCUMENTS (SUBMITTED 45 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING)

1. Certificate of Catholic Baptism, with the latest notations and issued for marriage purposes within the last six (6) months. A copy of baptismal certificate of baptism of the non-Catholic party.
2. Proof of freedom (Form 2A) & Concerning Baptism (Form 2B)
3. Certificate of Marriage Preparation Course
4. Wedding Service program (music & readings)
5. Marriage License/Witnesses with Postal Adresses & Contact Numbers
6. Thanksgiving Donation

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GUIDE SHEET FOR TAKING PICTURES

1. The Tabernacle contains the Blessed Sacrament, the holy presence of Christ in the church. Upmost respect is expected.
2. The Altar is the place for the Sacrifice of the Mass.
3. The Ambo is where the Word of God (Scripture) is Proclaimed.
4. The Presidential Chair is where the prayers are recited by the Presider.
5. A Table is placed next to the Ambo where the Signing of the Register is done.
6. The seats of the bride and groom.
7. The seats of the bridesmaids and groomsmen.
8. The seats of the parents and/r immediate families or relatives.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON TAKING PICTURES. Guests and relatives are requested to put away their cameras after the Entrance Procession and may resume taking pictures during the Signing of the Register. Official photographers (including video) are not permitted to take pictures within the shaded areas of the floor plan and are not allowed to bring in flood lights.