



The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Wedding Guidelines

We rejoice with you in the news of your forthcoming marriage and in your wish to have that marriage blessed at Assumption Church. We will assist you in making this one of the most beautiful and joyous events of your life. Since the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is first and foremost a Sacrament and an act of Christian worship, our aim on this happy occasion is to enable you to plan a service representative of your new life centered on Christ and his love.

Contained in these pages are the guidelines that we request all priests, deacons and lay people follow as the wedding planning commences and is conducted in this parish, a schedule of the fees appropriate to your wedding, and a list of personnel who are able to help you with any questions you may have along the way.

With cooperation from all parties, we look forward to planning a worship service that will glorify God and enrich the bond between the intended bride and groom.

PARISH STAFF READY TO HELP YOU

Mrs. Karen Pagan, Wedding Coordinator

615-730-2987

assumptionweddings@gmail.com

Mrs. Albennia Ladieu, Organist

615-876-2779 home

Mrs. Jerilyn Rost, Office Manager

615-256-2729

jrost@assumptionchurchnashville.org

Father Jerry Strange, Pastor

615-244-4093

jstrange@assumptionchurchnashville.org

Father William Fitzgerald, O.Praem, Parochial Vicar

615-256-2729

fr.william@assumptionchurchnashville.org

Church address to mail documents and payments:

1227 7th Avenue North

Nashville, Tennessee 37208



FEES AND DEPOSITS:

¼ of Rental Price is required to secure all dates and spaces. This non-refundable down payment will be applied to your balance due at the time of your event.

\$250 security deposit is required for all events, due at the time of occupancy. This fee is refundable given condition of the space at the end of your event.

Non-Parishioner Pricing	
Church of the Assumption	\$2000 plus security deposit
Father Bernard Niedergeses Hall (6 hour rental)	\$1750 plus security deposit \$500 each additional ½ hour \$500 use of garden or yard area
Germantown Abbey	\$2500 plus security deposit Saturdays \$1750 plus security deposit Friday and Sundays Weekday event charge TBD
Church/Fr. Bernard Hall	\$3000 plus security deposit
Church/Germantown Abbey	\$3500 Fridays and Sundays \$4500 Saturdays Weekday event charge TBD
Wedding services <u>included in price:</u> Rehearsal Bride Room Organist consult Organist performance Wedding Coordinator	\$0 \$0 \$100 \$300 \$350
Parishioner Pricing (must be <i>involved</i> and active in parish for 18 months prior to event)	
Church of the Assumption	\$350 plus security deposit and organists fees
Father Bernard Niedergeses Hall (6 hour rental)	\$350 plus security deposit
Germantown Abbey	\$350 Friday and Sunday \$350 Saturday Weekday event charge TBD
Church/Bernard Hall	\$700 plus security deposit
Church/Germantown Abbey	\$700 Fridays and Sundays \$700 Saturdays Weekday event charge TBD



PRIEST/DEACON COORDINATION OF DOCUMENTATION

If either the bride or groom has a previous marriage, the Priest or Deacon will inform you as to the additional documentation required.

Priest/Deacon responsibilities:

The priest or deacon who will witness your marriage is responsible for providing all required documents related to the marriage to the Assumption Church Wedding Coordinator at least one month prior to the intended wedding date.

Bride/Groom responsibilities:

A Catholic preparing for marriage must obtain a recent copy of his/her baptism certificate from the church in which s/he was baptized. The certificate must not be more than 6 months old on the day of the wedding. Baptized non-Catholics must also provide documentation of their baptism. Baptism certificates must be supplied to the officiating priest or deacon.

The bride and groom must obtain a civil marriage license. Marriage licenses are valid for only thirty days; therefore the marriage license must be obtained not more than thirty days prior to the day of the wedding. The marriage license must be delivered to the officiating priest at the time of the rehearsal. For weddings that will take place in Tennessee, marriage licenses may be purchased at the Office of the County Clerk in any county in the state of Tennessee. The Davidson County Clerk may be reached at: nashvilleclerk.com/living/marriage-license/ or at 615-862-6256.

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

If both bride and groom are Catholic, a Nuptial Mass is encouraged. Throughout the centuries, brides and grooms have begun their married life together by offering that life in the context of Holy Mass, strengthened and nourished by the sacrament of the altar to meet the challenges and demands that lie ahead. A marriage ceremony that includes Mass usually takes approximately one hour. If either the bride or groom is not Catholic, frequently there is no Mass. A marriage ceremony without Mass usually takes thirty-five to forty minutes.



GUEST CLERGY

Only Roman Catholic clergy in good standing may witness a marriage or celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Church of the Assumption. Catholic clergy from outside the Diocese of Nashville must provide suitable documentation as a priest in good standing and submit a request in writing to the Pastor of the Church of the Assumption that they would like to witness a marriage.

Ministers from non-Catholic denominations or religions may participate as guest ministers in a Roman Catholic wedding. The Gospel must be read and the sermon preached by the Catholic priest or deacon. The vows must be received by him as well. Non-Catholic guest ministers may lead other prayers and participate in other ways. Please contact your priest or deacon for details.

MUSIC

Mrs. Albennia Ladieu is the Organist at the Church of the Assumption. Only the church Organist or her designee is authorized to play the historic 1895 Johnson & Son pipe organ. Please consult with the Organist no later than eight weeks before the wedding to select music and to coordinate with any other players you may choose to perform at the wedding. If the bridal couple wishes to include additional instrumentalists or vocalists, the Organist will discuss these arrangements with you. The fee for the obligatory consultation with the Organist is \$100.00, and is *INCLUDED* in your pricing (*Parishoners will pay this in addition to the fees*).

The Organist has a repertoire of beautiful classical, sacred, and liturgical music from which to help you choose. The fee for performance by the organist is \$300.00, which is *INCLUDED* in your pricing. The use of additional instrumentalists and/or vocalists may necessitate additional fees.

CDs and recorded music are not permissible. The use of an electronic keyboard or piano is also not permitted. Music may begin no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony.



“UNITY CANDLES”

The Rite of Marriage in the Catholic Church does not accept the use of so-called “unity candles” during the marriage ceremony.

FLOWERS AND DECORATION

Floral arrangements on the high altar and decorative flowers temporarily attached to the end of the pews are permitted. Florists may be engaged to provide flowers. They must arrive no more than two hours prior to the start of the wedding. The Parish Office is not generally open on the day of the wedding to receive shipments of flowers.

Altar floral arrangements used for the wedding are customarily left at the Church for Holy Mass the following day. If you plan on removing the flowers after the wedding, please notify the Wedding Coordinator in advance.

Please have your florist consult with the Wedding Coordinator at least 30 days prior to your wedding about the time of day to decorate for your wedding. This will avoid conflicts with any Assumption ceremonies. The florist must prepare all flower arrangements before they are brought into Assumption Church. Keeping in mind the historic nature of Assumption Church, the florist must provide adequate protection for the hardwood floor, rugs, and altar. Greenery should be placed in containers. Ferns or other greenery that will shed on the carpet or floors are not allowed. Only candles in the Church candelabras are allowed. Pew markers should be carefully fastened with ribbon so as not to damage the wooden pews. No rice, seeds, confetti, flower petals or similar items are to be thrown or scattered anywhere in the Church or outside on the premises, before, during, or after the wedding. The florist is asked to leave the Church as neat as they found it. They must remove all equipment within one hour after the ceremony concludes.

PHOTOGRAPHY

To ensure the solemnity of the Rite of Marriage, it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. Pictures may be taken in the church during the wedding ceremony **PROVIDED THAT:**
1) no flash or other artificial light is used during the ceremony, 2) no photographers or photographers’ equipment is introduced into the sanctuary area (not allowed inside communion



rail), and 3) photographers and photographers' equipment are kept inconspicuous in the nave or the loft.

2. Video recording of your wedding may be made PROVIDED THAT videographers observe the guidelines stated in #1 above, especially: 1) there is no intrusion inside the communion rail. 2) Videographers and their equipment are kept inconspicuous.

3. No church furniture or appointments are to be moved by the photographer, florist or member of the wedding party.

4. All photography taken on Assumption properties that are found online may be used by the Church for website and social media use, giving credit to the photographer. It is the responsibility of the couple to provide a copy of these guidelines to their photographer/videographer.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Scheduling

The rehearsal is normally held on the day before the wedding. A typical wedding rehearsal takes about one hour. If there is to be a rehearsal dinner, it should be scheduled not less than one and one half hours after the hour set for the rehearsal.

ALCOHOL AND INTOXICATION

No alcoholic beverages of any kind may be consumed on church property before the wedding. Any degree of intoxication by the bride or groom at the wedding creates a serious impediment to sacramental marriage.

THE DAY OF THE WEDDING

Arrival Time

Members of the wedding party may arrive at the Church two (2) hours before the scheduled time of the wedding. The groom, groomsmen and ushers should arrive dressed and ready.

The Germantown Abbey

The Bride and her retinue may use the bride room in the Germantown Abbey for dressing prior to the wedding. This room is *INCLUDED* in your pricing. You may arrive 2 hours prior to the



schedule time of the wedding. All personal effects should be removed in one hour after the end of the wedding.

Security

Assumption Church is not responsible for the security of vehicles or personal articles. Please lock cars, and do not leave personal articles or gifts unattended.

PROFESSIONAL WEDDING CONSULTANTS AND YOUR PREPARATION

Couples are welcome to use professional wedding planners to assist them in organizing their wedding. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage involves far more than the event of the wedding itself, and that the bride and the groom are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage. Therefore, while a professional planner may assist with the details, it is important that the couple themselves plan the wedding liturgy together with their priest or deacon.

The presiding priest or deacon will lead both the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. Professional planners are welcome to be present and offer assistance under his direction and to work in conjunction with the Assumption Wedding Coordinator.

RECEPTIONS AND REHEARSAL DINNERS

Father Bernard Hall, located beside the courtyard that adjoins the Church, is available for rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. It seats approximately 80 people. Father Bernard Hall is approximately 47 feet long by 30 feet wide.

The ballroom on the upper floor of the Germantown Abbey may also be used for rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. The ballroom is approximately 51 feet long by 43 feet wide.

The Hall and the Abbey will be cleaned and ready when you reserve these spaces for your wedding events. Please make sure your caterer knows that they are responsible for leaving the buildings in the same condition that they found them. Limited kitchen facilities, banquet tables



and chairs are available in Father Bernard Hall. These amenities are not available in the Abbey ballroom. Your caterer must furnish dishes, glassware, silver, tablecloths and other appointments. Anything rented must be removed immediately after the reception.

Beer, champagne and wine are permitted. No “hard” liquor is allowed. When alcohol is served, food must be provided and non-alcoholic beverages must be offered.

Please see the section of these guidelines on **Fees** for the rental fees associated with Father Bernard Hall and the Germantown Abbey ballroom.