

the Civil License and Church Fees if not rendered sooner.

4 Members of the Wedding Party: A wedding is an adult celebration. We ask that you be cautious when inviting children to participate as Ring Bearers and Flower Girls. Children below the age of five years old are not little adults but are still “babies” who can get very scared at a Wedding Ceremony. Please consult with your priest/deacon about the age of young participants. We may have to say no to very young children because we know from experience what can happen. Certainly **NO ANIMALS MAY EVER BE IN A CHURCH WEDDING PARTY** (only exception would be a service dog for a visually impaired person). We must also say **NO** to the use of any props like wagons or carriages for small children. So too, when small children are involved it is wiser to have them sit with parents in the congregation rather than with the adults in the sanctuary. This allows parents to walk the children to the rear area should they get to “antsy”.

4. The Wedding Day: To insure that your Wedding and other parish functions or weddings will not be rushed or hurried, and are celebrated with proper reverence and devotion, the following procedures will be followed:

a) **USHERS, BEST MAN and GROOM:** should arrive at the Church at least one half hour before the start of the Wedding. Ushers will greet and seat guests and family members according to the directions of the Bride and Groom.

b) We ask that the **BRIDE** and her **ATTENDANTS** be at the Church fifteen (15) minutes before the Wedding is scheduled to begin.

5. It is the policy of both St. Anthony’s and the Diocese of Paterson that none of the following be used: RICE, CONFETTI, FLOWER PETALS, and BALLOONS. Such items can cause slippage and are not environmentally friendly to God’s creatures. We do live in a very litigious society.

E. CELEBRATION CHOICES:

1. Mass or Ceremony: Couples may celebrate their marriage in one of Two ways: Within the context of a Mass; or, with a Ceremony. The couple will discuss this choice with the priest/deacon. A liturgy aid booklet called Together For Life will be given to you for this purpose.

2. Readings: The couple chooses the Readings for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage in consultation with the priest/deacon. There are three readings. Ordinarily, one comes from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament Letters and one from the Gospel. Readings from secular sources are not allowed in the Liturgy.

3. Vows: There are three available forms for the exchange of vows. The couple, in consultation with the priest can choose one of these forms. It is not proper to write one’s own vows because marriage is not a private reality but a public celebration. Couples may formulate