

PARISH WEDDING POLICY

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
7715 River Rd.
Townsend, TN 37882

Our parish welcomes the celebration of marriage, and we are committed to supporting dignified celebrations of the nuptial sacrament in our church. To this end, in addition to applicable canonical and diocesan requirements, we hope this parish policy helps provide for a worthy celebration of your wedding.

1. Engaged couples who are registered parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Townsend, should contact a member of the parish clergy before setting a date for the wedding. This also applies if only one of the couple is a parishioner here.
2. Catholics who are registered members of another parish should first complete the pre-nuptial investigation with a priest or deacon of their own parish, and only afterwards contact us to reserve the church. This also applies if only one of the couple is Catholic.
3. Catholic clergymen who are not assigned to our parish must first receive permission from the Parish Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Townsend before officiating at a wedding in our parish. The desired clergyman will be familiar with this process.
4. Catholic weddings taking place within our parish boundaries are celebrated inside the parish church, rather than at another location. Exceptions can be made for serious reasons, such as a lack of space inside our church.
5. Both the Facilities Use Request Form and the Facilities Use Agreement must be completed and received by us before any of our facilities can be reserved for a wedding.
6. Times for rehearsal, preparation and clean-up must all be included in the Facility Use Request Form.
7. Couples who are not members of the parish must also, in addition to all other requirements, include a \$50 reservation deposit, which will be returned in its entirety once the wedding takes place. This reservation deposit is in addition to deposits and fees described in the Facility Use Agreement.
8. The parish office can be made available for dressing purposes, but the request for its use must be made explicit in the Facility Use Request Form. Similarly, requests for use of other facilities, such as Monsignor Harold Shea Hall, must be included on the form.
9. Decoration of the church requires supervision from the Parish Wedding Coordinator. The couple should contact the Parish Wedding Coordinator a minimum of 60 days before the wedding if they wish to add decorations.
10. Music, including use of parish musical instruments and/or our sound system, takes place under the supervision of our Director of Liturgical Music. The couple should contact the DLM a minimum of 60 days before the wedding if they wish to have music at their wedding. The parish does not provide musicians, but the couple may make private arrangements with parish musicians to provide music for the wedding, usually for a fee. All other musicians must be approved by the DLM. The music itself must be sacred music approved for liturgical use by the bishop of Knoxville. No other music is permitted inside the church. No pre-recorded music is permitted in the church.
11. In accordance with the Roman Ritual, texts for the wedding are selected by the officiating clergyman after consultation with the couple.