**Wedding Day**

We will do all we can to assist you in the celebration of this great moment in your life.

We ask you to remember that we are a large and busy parish. It is of the utmost importance that you do everything in your power to have the ceremony begin at the agreed upon time. Your cooperation will assure you a placid wedding with time left over for your photos, without interruption of parish members arriving for confessions or another service.

**Photos and Video**

You are free to select your own photographer. However, they are asked to observe the sacredness of the space and the order and dignity of the ceremony. They are not allowed into the sanctuary at any time.

Floodlights, studio lights and flashes are not allowed during the ceremony. Following the ceremony you will have 30 minutes OR for 2:00pm weddings, until 3:30 STRICTLY for photos.

Photographers must meet with the wedding coordinator prior to the start of the wedding.

**Flowers and Church Decorations**

Flowers are an expression of joy and festivity and may be used to decorate the church. You are free to select your own florist and take the flowers with you after the ceremony. Church decorations may not be altered, changed or removed. No flowers are allowed on the altar itself. Use of candelabras MUST be discussed with the wedding coordinator. Because of the high liability risk, aisle runners and the throwing of rice, bird seed or flower petals is not allowed.

**Music**

The music for your ceremony should be spiritual and not secular. Liturgical music helps people to pray. Music selections express not only the faith of the couple but also the common faith of the whole church.

The liturgy will require a cantor to sing and lead the guests, as well as a pianist. Please discuss the fees for these persons with the music director.

Visiting musicians are allowed only with the expressed approval of the music director.

**Wedding Rehearsal**

Wedding rehearsal dates and times are scheduled through the wedding coordinator. We thank you and your entire wedding party for being on time for your rehearsal.
This pamphlet is designed to assist you in planning your wedding here at St. Raymond’s. We are happy for you and wish to make all of your preparations a smooth and happy experience.

**Required Documents and Policies**

1. We ask that the couple be active parishioners for six months prior to beginning the preparation process.
2. While a year is an ideal amount of time to work with the priest in preparation for your marriage, a minimum of six months is needed.
3. A Baptismal Certificate, from the church of your Baptism, issued within six months of your wedding date. Note: It cannot be a copy of your original certificate.
4. Marriage License
5. Official Witnesses are your Best Man and Maid of Honor. They do not have to be Catholic but they must be 18 years of age or older. Signing the license is a civil law requirement.
6. Couples are expected to meet with the priest a minimum of six times before the wedding. They will meet with the wedding coordinator once; however, the wedding coordinator is available by telephone or email to answer any questions related to the ceremony.
7. All couples are required to attend an **Engaged Encounter**. This retreat provides the couple with an opportunity to explore various aspects of married life, e.g., children, finances, sexuality, interpersonal relationships, God-in marriage, etc.

The Engaged Encounter is offered through the Family Life Office, (510) 893-4711, www.oakflo.com/marriage_prep.html. You may contact the family Life Office for information about the cost and available dates and times.

**Order of Worship**

- **Greeting & Gathering prayers**
- **Readings & Gospel**
- **Homily**
- **Vows & Rings**
- **Coins /Arras *optional***
- **Candle lighting ceremony *optional***
- **Cord/lasso and veil *optional***

**If there is a Mass**

- **Presentation of Gifts (bread and wine)**
- **Eucharistic Prayer**
- **Our Father**
- **Nuptial Blessing**
- **Communion**
- **Concluding Prayer**
- **Flowers to Mary *optional***
- **Closing Blessing**
- **Recessional**

**If there is NOT a Mass**

- **Our Father**
- **Nuptial Blessing**
- **Closing Blessing**
- **Recessional**

**If you will be providing a program on the day of your wedding, please talk with the wedding coordinator to get a more specific ceremony outline.**

**If the couple chooses to celebrate mass, you will need an altar server and at least one Eucharistic minister. Please discuss these details with the wedding coordinator.**

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“**For this reason, a person shall leave their father and mother and cling to their spouse, and the two shall become as one.**”

- Matthew 19:5

Fr. Lawrence D’Anjou
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