

St. Thomas Church
One East Main Street
Thomaston, CT 06787

PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR WEDDING

Congratulations on your wedding! We are honored that you have chosen to celebrate this important day at St. Thomas Church.

A wedding is such an important day filled with many details. We are sure you have spent a lot of time already attending to many of these details. It is important that the religious ceremony celebrating the beginning of your life together not be overlooked. With that in mind, we have prepared this information sheet for your convenience. It answers questions that have come up in the past and hopefully anticipates a few new ones. If you have other questions, please feel free to call the Parish Center at 860.283.5817 to speak with the Pastor.

Reserving the Date: You can reserve the date and time for your wedding by contacting the Pastor. You are urged to do this as soon as you know the date that you would like, but it must be done at least six (6) months prior to the wedding date. A Fifty Dollar (\$50) deposit is requested at this time.

Certificates Required: During the six months preparation for your wedding, you will be asked to furnish the following: 1.) **Certificate of Baptism**, 2.) **Certificate of First Communion**, and 3.) **Certificate of Confirmation**.

You can obtain the certificates from the parish(es) where you received these sacraments. **NOTE:** The Certificate of Baptism must be recently issued (**within six months of the wedding date**). You need not obtain certificates for any sacraments you have received at St. Thomas Church.

Offering: The offering for the entire wedding at this time is Four Hundred Dollars (**\$400**) for registered parishioners, or One Thousand Dollars (**\$1,000.**) for a non-parishioner. This amount includes the Fifty Dollar (\$50) deposit, the FOCUS inventory and its scoring and evaluation meetings, the rehearsal, as well as the wedding ceremony in the church. The only additional fees will be for the organist of your choice, a cantor and any special rehearsals needed should you wish to use your own soloist or musicians. The balance of the offering may be paid at any time during your preparation period up to the date of your last meeting with the priest. You will be notified should any changes be made in the requested offering.

Rehearsal: Our wedding rehearsals are normally scheduled on the Thursday evening before the wedding. Please be sure your wedding party in **ON TIME** because there will probably be other rehearsals following yours. **Confessions are not heard the night of the rehearsal.** The sacrament is available at the regularly scheduled hours (see the parish bulletin) or by appointment with the priest.

Music:

By their very nature all liturgies are musical, and the liturgy of marriage is no exception. Not only is music a wonderful way to pray, but it draws everyone into prayer in different ways.

Congregations at weddings are often “once in a lifetime” congregations, that is, this particular group of people has come together only for your wedding and will probably never come together again. You should keep this in mind when choosing your music.

When you select the music for your wedding, you should keep a few things in mind; Common threads should be visible throughout the liturgy – themes of personal commitment, community support and God’s loving presence in

your lives. The music should be technically, aesthetically and expressively good. The music should be in sync with your readings, the vows, and the general theme of commitment and faithfulness. If you follow these guidelines, you will probably find that most of the “Top Forty” songs don’t fit. Favorite songs that have a special meaning for you should be played at the reception.

Engaged Couple Conference: These are conferences sponsored by the Archdiocese for engaged couples. They are required and are held in various locations. You may register on-line: <http://www.hartfordengagedencounter.com/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Marriage License: It is recommended that you bring the marriage license to the Parish Center as soon as you receive it from the Town Clerk’s Office in Thomaston, which is where you will be married. We will keep it with your records and return the appropriately signed license to Town Hall following your wedding.

Flowers, Runners & Pew Decorations: (no tape may be used): are your responsibility. The aisle is 81’ front of altar to front door, and 70’ front of altar to vestibule doors (double doors). For safety purposes, if a runner is desired, it is strongly suggested that a cloth one be used rather than a paper one. Pews can seat 500 people.

Receiving Line: May be in back of the church or outside. There is to be no throwing of rice, confetti, birdseed, etc.

Candid / Video Photographers: These should not interfere with the liturgy or in any way unduly delay the ceremony. They are welcome but should conduct themselves in a professional way conducive to the prayerful character of the occasion.

Parking: Due to our limited parking area, we must request that you inform your guests prior to the wedding that we cannot allow car-pooling to your reception, i.e., some of the guests leaving their cars in our lot. This can cause problems on days when there are multiple weddings and other worship services scheduled.

Directions to St. Thomas Church: Attached to this informational packet. We suggest that you make copies for your guest so that they will not have to call the parish center or ask for them to be faxed.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in the above matters. It is our hope that your love for each other will never fail but will grow stronger and stronger as the days and years go by. Best wishes and God’s blessings.

t. Thomas Church

DIRECTIONS TO ST.THOMAS CHURCH
One East Main Street
Thomaston, CT 06787

Coming on Rt. 84 West from Hartford:

In Waterbury take Rt. 8 North toward Torrington. Take exit 39. At the end of this exit take a left, come over the bridge and then take your first right onto Electric Avenue. Come up Electric Avenue and you will see a parking lot with a chain link fence on your left for parking.

Coming on Rt. 84 East from Danbury:

As you approach Waterbury take Rt. 8 North exit toward Torrington. Exit will be on your left hand side. Follow Rt. 8 North to Exit 39. At the end of this exit take a left, come over the bridge and then take your first right onto Electric Avenue. Come up Electric Avenue and you will see a parking lot with a chain link fence on your left for parking.

Coming on Rt. 6 from Bristol:

Follow Rt. 6 through Terryville and then Plymouth. Continue on Rt. 6 down Plymouth Hill. At the bottom of the hill you will go over a bridge entering Thomaston then take your first right onto Electric Avenue. Come up Electric Avenue and you will see a parking lot with a chain link fence on your left for parking.