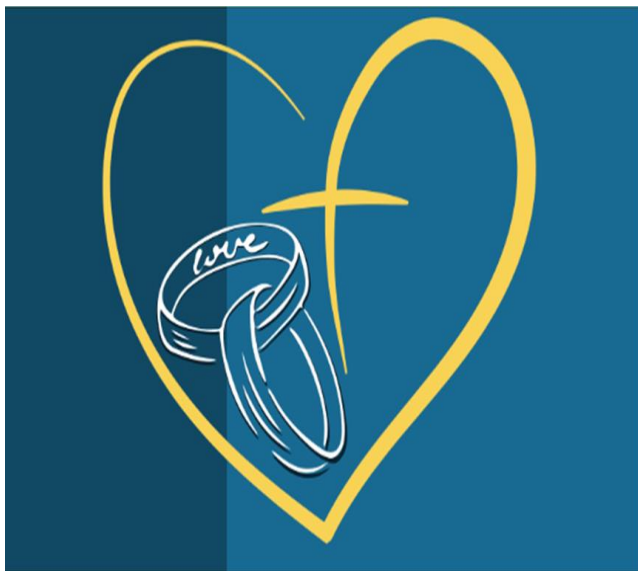




**PLANNING YOUR MARRIAGE
AT
ST. AGNES CHURCH**

**ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH
3966 Chestnut Avenue
Concord, California 94519
(925) 689-0838
Email: stagnesoffice@comcast.net**

Dear Friends:

Congratulations on your engagement and decision to be married at St. Agnes Catholic Church.

You want your wedding day to be beautiful and pleasing in all of its arrangements. So do we! This brochure has been created to make that possible. It contains rules and guidelines. They may seem cumbersome at first, but they exist not only to make the wedding ceremony run smoothly, but also to recognize the fact that your wedding day belongs to more than just the two of you.

Your wedding is a family event, one that gives hope for life and love from generation to generation and that brings your two families together.

Your wedding is a faith event, God should be the Third Person in your marriage. So, the Church has some expectations about your wedding celebration.

These guidelines are intended to help all who gather for your wedding, both family and friends to celebrate well.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Luke Ssemakula

I. PREPARATION AND FORMATION

A minimum of six (6) months preparation is required. A wedding ceremony is one day but your marriage is a lifetime and you want to be properly prepared.

Step One:

- Complete and Submit the Marriage Questionnaire
- Make an appointment with the Priest

Step Two:

- Meet with the Priest, fill out forms, and submit the following required documents:
 - a) Form A (self-testimonies)
 - b) Form B (witness interviews)
 - c) Baptismal Certificate (must be issued within the last 6 months)
 - d) Other documents may be required according to the circumstances; e.g. certificate of death of former spouse, marriage certificate for validation of a civil marriage, declaration of nullity for a previous marriage.

****Note** – All paperwork must be submitted to the church office no later than 60 days before the wedding.

Step Three:

- Secure a wedding date and pay the deposit fee of \$100.00, which is non-refundable.

Step Four:

- Attend the required Marriage Preparation Program. Each and every couple must go through and complete the Marriage Preparation Program. As couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony, the discernment process of this very sacred vocation is crucial.
- You may use the link below to register for classes offered through the Oakland Diocese.

Register for Marriage Prep Classes

<https://www.oakdiocese.org/marriage-prep-retreat/>

- Each couple must attend Mentor Couple Sessions given by mentor couples from the parish for guidance, instruction and fellowship.
- FOCCUS Inventory is an online survey that shows patterns of strengths and areas that need the couples' attention

II. WEDDING PLANNING

The wedding coordinator from St. Agnes will guide you through the planning of the ceremony and all of the details including the rehearsal.

- **Marriage License**

The marriage license, issued no more than ninety (90) days before the wedding date by any county in California, should be given to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal. They will ensure that the Priest fills it out immediately after the ceremony.

- **Time for the Ceremony**

Weddings can be arranged during the week, in coordination with the Parish Office and Priest who will solemnize the wedding. On Saturdays, weddings are normally held at 11am and 2pm. You are given 1 hour before and 30 minutes after the wedding for set-up and pictures. No wedding ceremony will be scheduled during Lent or Holy Days of Obligation.

- **Music**

All music at St. Agnes is in-house. Please coordinate this with the wedding coordinator early in the planning phase of your wedding ceremony. Pre-recorded music is not permitted. Should the couple wish to have additional musician/s, this must be coordinated with the St. Agnes Music Director and the fees incurred will be at the expense of the couple. No external sound system may be connected with the Church sound system. Please inform your photographers/videographers of these regulations.

III. WEDDING DAY

- **Decorations**

Flowers and other decorations should be delivered one (1) hour before the wedding time. Flower arrangements may be placed in front of the altar, on stands in the sanctuary and in other places as guided by the wedding coordinator, but are not permitted on the altar itself.

- **Candles**

NO LIT CANDLES.

- **Photography and Videos**

Photographers/videographers work under the direction of the wedding coordinator. They may take any photos they wish before and for a brief period after the ceremony. **Once the ceremony starts, NO FLASH photography and the photographers may not move around nor come to the altar or the sanctuary.**

- **Special Ceremonies**

If you are considering a special ceremony such as with veil, cord, coins, etc., you must consult with the wedding coordinator and the Priest well beforehand.

- **Ring Bearers and Flower Girls**

Children under the age of five (5) may not serve as ring bearers or flower girls as their attention span is too short.

- **Official Witnesses**

Official witnesses must be practicing Catholics and over eighteen (18) years old. They will be asked to sign the Marriage License at the sacristy immediately after the ceremony.

- **Rice, Confetti, Flower Petals, Etc.**

You are asked NOT to throw rice, confetti, and flower petals on church premises.

IV. OFFERINGS AND FEES

It is suggested that the offering given to the church be commensurate with the cost of the wedding. This offering goes to St. Agnes Parish, not to the Priests. If you wish to give an offering to the Priest who will officiate at the wedding, this should be placed in a separate envelope.

Fees

Offering to Parish: \$450.00
***(\$100 non-refundable deposit required to secure church.
The Balance is due 30 days prior to wedding date.)***

Wedding Coordinator: \$200.00

Pianist: \$200.00

Cantor: \$200.00

Priest or Deacon At your own discretion

V. IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

St. Agnes Parish (925) 689-0838

Teresa Drouillard (925) 324-6095
Wedding Coordinator

Pete Frevele (925) 689-0838
Director of Music Ministry

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