

Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Assunção dos Portugueses
Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church
P.O. Box 2030 (2602 S. Walnut Rd.) Telephone: (209) 634-2222 . Fax: (209)634-2366
Turlock, California 95381 Email: OLAssumption.net

THE MARRIAGE PROCESS AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

1. Please contact the parish office (634-2222) at least **6 months before the wedding**.
2. Weddings time are **Saturday: 12 Noon, 2:30 PM and 5 PM**. No wedding may be scheduled after 5 PM.
3. Anyone seeking to be married in the Church needs be free from impediments. If you have been married before in a civil or church ceremony you need to mention that in the first meeting with the priest.
4. When a Catholic and a non-baptized person want to get married in the church, they need to fill out a form asking for the bishop's permission.
5. After the marriage and rehearsal date have been set, the couple is directed to a **marriage preparation program** including an Engaged Encounter Week-end and Natural Family Planning. Other options may be considered. For Engaged Encounter please visit dioceseofstockton.org.
6. At the first meeting the couple will be given a book with topics pertaining to married life. These topics will help the couple to deepen their sharing and discussion. They will also receive another book with all the prayers and readings for the Celebration of Marriage. This book contains many readings from the Bible along with meditations, alternatives and suggestions. The order of worship for the service is also explained.
7. Father will then direct the couple to meet with **marriage assistant, Nellie Oliveira** to present proper documents and fill out forms; she may be reached at 634-2222. You will need a **Baptismal Certificate** issued in the last 6 months. Just call the parish in which you were baptized and they will mail it to you. You also need to present the certificate of **First Communion** and of **Confirmation**. In separate interviews, a form is to be filled out with the bride, the groom, and family member of each party. This could be a parent or a sibling or a close friend that has known person to be married, for a long time. The Parish Office will make sure that all the forms needed are filled out.

8. A month or so before the wedding, call Nellie again that she may receive the list of readings and make copies of the readings if a different language is to be used. She will confer that everything is in order and then she will refer you to **Lassalet Ponceano, our Wedding Coordinator for the rehearsal (632-3472 / 262-8180)**.
9. Simplicity is recommended. When you invite a very large wedding party, it means that the rehearsal and the wedding will be longer. We also recommend that you invite only children who are old enough to be ring bearers and flower girls for obvious reasons.
10. You are advised to invite family members or friends to read during the service. They should be practicing Christians who believe what they are reading.
11. Avoid unnecessary pomposity and artificiality. The simplicity of the Gospel should shine through in a world in which people die of starvation. The decorum of the dresses should be in keeping with Christian modesty.
12. You are reminded that a Catholic Church is a sacred space in which the Lord is reserved in the Blessed Sacrament. **A reverent and prayerful disposition must be adhered to at all times even during the pictures.** Children should not run in church. Socializing is best done in the vestibule.
13. **You have an hour and half for the wedding service and for pictures.** The church has to be ready for the next wedding at least 50 minutes before so that they may set up and begin to receive their guests. The church is not a studio. Pictures need to be few in number with simple poses. **Please commence on time.**
14. **Rehearsals are conducted by a representative of the parish.** Even though she is sensitive to the uniqueness of each couple, her directives must be taken. She is to be paid **\$125** for doing the rehearsal and setting up for the wedding to save the priest time and make everything run smoothly.
15. The donation for the use of the church is **\$250**. **This donation is to be made through the Parish Office 30 days before your wedding.**
16. **You are to present a marriage license to the Parish Office a month before the wedding.** This will give time for us to type the necessary information. The wedding coordinator will make sure that it is in the church the day of the marriage. A marriage license may be obtained up to 90 days before the wedding. You may obtain the license at **1021 "I" Street, Modesto**. The best man and maid of honor will sign the license immediately after the marriage vows or later in the sacristy.
17. Nothing should obstruct the view of the altar around the altar or in the pews. No church furnishings (table, seats, candles etc.) Nothing should be in the way of the presider's chair or of the readers. They need to be clearly seen. The wedding party

and the bride and groom are to be standing on the floor level of the church as to not obstruct the view of the altar.

18. The throwing of rice, confetti, petals and other items are **not allowed** at Our Lady of the Assumption either inside the church or on the grounds.
19. The bride and the wedding party are allowed to use the children's room next to the bathrooms as they wait for the celebration. Blinds may be lowered for privacy.
20. Make sure that when you leave, everything is clean and nothing is left behind. Do not forget the unity candle, cameras, purses, etc. We are grateful for any flowers you wish to donate either after Mass or after the reception.
21. Make sure that the outside doors are not left open because of the unusual amount of flies in this area most of the year.
22. Music is a very important part of a good marriage celebration. We recommend that you choose songs that the community knows how to sing. We recommend the singers and musicians of the Parish. We recommend the use of the organ and of the piano. You may use also classical instruments and guitars. Our parish singers & musicians are: **Nancy de Sousa (614-7139)**, **Chris Willis (667-1545)**, **Melanie Oliveira, (648-4827)** & **Lyzandra Jorge (632-9431)**. If you have another musician, relative or friend, talk to the priest about it. Music used in church weddings should reflect the love of God in Christ. It should not sing exclusive and sentimental love, alien to the love of the Gospel.