

*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.)  
Turlock, California 95381*

*Telephone: (209) 634-2222  
Website: [olassumption.net](http://olassumption.net)*

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**THE MARRIAGE PROCESS AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

1. Please contact the parish office (209-634-2222) at least **9 months before the wedding**.
2. Weddings time are **Saturday: 12 Noon & 2:30 PM**.
3. Anyone seeking to be married in the Church needs to 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 date has been set, the couple is directed to take a Natural Family Planning (NFP) course. Please visit <http://ccli.org> to register for the NFP Course. Once completed, turn the certificate into Our Lady of the Assumption office. This is a **3 month long course** that is self paced. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT wait until right before your wedding to begin this course.
6. After the marriage date has been set, the couple is directed to take the Engaged Encounter course. Please visit [stocktonee.org](http://stocktonee.org) to register for Engaged Encounter Course. Once completed, turn the certificate into Our Lady of the Assumption office. This is a **weekend course**. Please sign up as soon as possible to view weekend selections and locations.
7. 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.
8. Father will then direct the couple to meet with parish staff to present proper documents and fill out forms. Please call 634-2222 to make an appointment to meet with parish staff. 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.

9. A month or so before the wedding you may select the readings and set up your rehearsal date and time. Check your email for a link to a google form. At the bottom of this google form there will be an external link with the readings. If you have any questions email our wedding coordinator at **tavila@olassumption.net**.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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 the church. Socializing is best done in the vestibule.
14. **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 60 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.** Pictures can be taken outside for as long as need.
15. **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 given a stipend of \$150 for doing the rehearsal and setting up for the wedding to save the priest time and make everything run smoothly. This **\$150 is included in the \$1,000** donation for the use of the church.
16. The donation for the use of the church is **\$1,000**. A deposit of \$500 is due at the time of booking. **The remaining donation is to be made through the Parish Office 30 days before your wedding.**
17. **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 and will mail it out after the ceremony. A marriage license is valid for 90 days. Please pick one

up **30 days before the wedding**. You may obtain the license at **1021 I Street, Suite 101, Modesto, CA 95354**. The best man and maid of honor will sign the license immediately after Mass in the priest sacristy. The parish office will take care of mailing out the license after the ceremony. Allow for two weeks of processing time after the wedding and then call the county office for a copy of your marriage license.

18. 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 so as to not obstruct the view of the altar.
19. 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.
20. 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 will be lowered for privacy.
21. Make sure that when you leave, everything is clean and nothing is left behind. Do not forget cameras, purses, water bottles, glasses, etc. We are grateful for any flowers you wish to donate either after Mass or after the reception.
22. Make sure that the outside doors are not left open because of the unusual amount of flies in this area most of the year.
23. 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 also use classical instruments and guitars. Our parish singers & musicians are: **Ashley Soto** (209)648-9340 (English, Portuguese and Spanish), **Lysandra Jorge Silva** (209) 262-7571(English, Portuguese and Spanish), **Kyle Casey** (209) 648-0728, **James Governale** (209) 202-4407. 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.

## WEDDING REHEARSAL

Make sure you have selected your readers ahead of time. They must be practicing Christians and someone who attends Mass regularly. Make sure everyone that will be participating in the ceremony is present for the rehearsal. This includes the following people:

### Wedding Line-up/People

- Grandparents (Optional)
- Groom (Parents or who ever is walking down the aisle with)
- Godparents (Optional - Hispanic Weddings)
- Bridal Party (Maid of Honor and Best Man go last in line before Ring Bearer & Flower Girl)
- Ring Bearer (Optional)
- Flower Girl (Optional)
- Bride (Parents or who ever is walking down the aisle with)

#### Readers (**1-4 people**)

- 1st Reading
- Psalm - typically sung by musicians or read by someone
- 2nd Reading
- Prayers of the Faithful

Presentation of the Gifts: Bread & Wine (**2 people**)

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Any questions, please email the wedding coordinator, **Taylor Avila** at [tavila@olassumption.net](mailto:tavila@olassumption.net) or call the parish office to speak with her Wednesday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

Email should include the following information:

- Your name & your fiance's name
- Wedding date & time
- Your question

## MARRIAGE PROCESS CHECKLIST AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

*ALL of the following is required of every couple that gets married here at our parish and it is their responsibility to complete everything.*

→ Booking the Wedding Date

- ◆ Deposit of \$500, cash or check, paid to *Our Lady of the Assumption* or *OLA*. Deposit of \$500 goes toward the total of \$1,000.
- ◆ Letter of Permission - if you are coming from a different parish or you are not registered at a parish, then you can obtain one by calling the nearest parish office to your residence.

→ Natural Family Planning (NFP) Course

- ◆ Please visit <http://ccli.org> to register for the NFP Course. Once completed, turn the certificate into Our Lady of the Assumption office. This is a **3 month long course** that is self paced. Please sign up ASAP. Do NOT wait until right before your wedding to begin this course. [Class Type: *Main NFP Series* & Learning Mode: *Self-Paced*]

→ Marriage Course: Engaged Encounter

- ◆ Please visit [stocktonee.org](http://stocktonee.org) to register for Engaged Encounter Course. Once completed, turn the certificate into Our Lady of the Assumption office. This is a **weekend course**. Please sign up ASAP to view weekend selections and locations.

→ Marriage Paperwork

- ◆ Marriage paperwork consists of:
  - Collecting copies of all sacraments.
  - Form A Interview - the couple meets with the priest to complete this.
  - Form B Interview - one witness for the bride and one witness for the groom. Interview takes about 5-10 minutes and is done with an office staff member. Witness must be someone that knows you well - parent, sibling, best friend, etc. The couple does not need to be present for this interview. The witness can schedule according to their own personal schedule.
  - Engaged Encounter weekend retreat certificate of completion.
  - Natural Family (NFP) certificate of completion.
- ◆ If you are a parishioner at our parish, then our office will take care of your paperwork. You are still required to set up appointment days and times with Ashley Hendrex for your Form B Interview and Fr. Larry Machado for your Form A Interview. You may contact them by calling our parish office (209)634-2222 or catch Fr. Larry after Mass to set up an appointment time with him.
- ◆ If you are NOT a parishioner here at our parish, then it is the responsibility of the parish that you are coming from to do your paperwork. If you do not have a parish that you are registered at, then the one closest to your residence is in charge of doing your paperwork. It is at that parish that you will be responsible to set up dates and times for the required meetings. Please contact that parish office immediately after the wedding is booked in order to start the marriage paperwork process.

→ Obtaining an officiant for the ceremony (Priest or Deacon).

- ◆ We do not provide you with a priest. You must provide one yourself. If you are coming from a different parish, then that parish will assist you in finding a priest.

- Musicians
  - ◆ We provide a list of recommended musicians if you do not have any. They do charge a separate fee.
- Wedding Rehearsal
  - ◆ Set up a day and time with our wedding coordinator Taylor Avila (tavila@olassumption.net) or call the parish office weeks/months in advance. There are only set dates and times for rehearsals that are tentative. It is a first come first serve basis. Prepared to be flexible with what is available.
- Picking of Readings
  - ◆ You will be emailed a link to a *google form* that will have external links attached at the bottom for the Mass wedding readings. This will be emailed to you months prior.
- Readers/Participants
  - ◆ Select 1-4 people who are practicing Christians and attend Mass regularly to say the readings at Mass. You will also need 2 people to take up the gifts (bread and wine).
- Marriage License
  - ◆ Pick up your marriage license and turn it into our parish office **30 days before your wedding**. You may obtain the marriage license at **1021 I Street, Suite 101. Modesto, CA 95354**. Once you've obtained your license, then you may turn it into our office. If you are already civilly married, then provide a copy of your marriage license to our parish office. Marriage licenses are only valid for 90 days from the pick up date. Please wait to obtain this license until the 30 days prior to your wedding date.
- Google Form
  - ◆ Please submit the google form **two weeks prior to the ceremony date**. This form will aid the rehearsal process, office use and for the day of the ceremony.
- Payments
  - ◆ **\$1,000** is the total paid to the church for the use of the church, including the wedding coordinator and the priest stipend. Payments are due in our parish office **30 days prior to the wedding date**.