



Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Wedding Rehearsal Guidelines



The couple should meet with the priest witnessing the marriage sometime after their arrival on the island and before the actual rehearsal time to go over details of the ceremony.

Rehearsals go quickly when only those people who have an actual part in the ceremony are in the church. Other guests can wait in the church courtyard or in town.

Those rehearsing should be mindful that Catholics consider their churches to be “sacred spaces” with Jesus present in the tabernacle. So, there should be a sense of reverence and not a “party atmosphere” during the rehearsal. Hat wearing, tank tops, and drinking are among inappropriate dress and behaviors at any time inside the church.

Before the rehearsal begins, the couple should have decided such matter as: Whether there will be a regular Mass and Communion (Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist) or simply the Liturgy of the Word, whether the male and female attendants will come down the main aisle together or the women only. Also, in what order they will come down the aisle; whether any children in the procession will sit with the attendants or with their parents during the wedding.

Any Scripture reader(s) need not practice at the rehearsal but should be there and be provided with the text of what they will be reading.

The couple should know that they set the guidelines for their photographers and/or videographers. Be forewarned that they can often be quite a distraction to the congregation unless you give them limits. Under no conditions should they prevent the wedding from beginning at the announced time.

If there is going to be a Mass, then decorations should not prevent those in the congregation from coming to Communion using the center aisle.

If all goes well, rehearsals last less than a half hour. Basically, what is practiced is the entrance and recessional. All that happens in between is directed by the priest at the wedding and nothing has to be memorized or remembered.

Remember no rice, bird seed, bubbles or flower petals inside or directly outside the church.

Contact the Parish Office at (310) 510-0192 if you have any additional questions about the church or ceremony.