

**WEDDING PLANNING NORMS
FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII**
by Father Edison Pamintuan, M.S., Pastor

INTRODUCTION

These norms are presented so that you may better plan your wedding at Immaculate Conception Church. It is important that the bride and groom understand these norms as they are ultimately responsible to communicate these norms to family members and/or wedding coordinators who might be assisting with wedding planning. The bride and groom cannot completely turn over the wedding details to others, and should know all the details of what others propose to do at the wedding in our church.

The Sacrament of Matrimony is considered a “Sacrament of the Living.” This means couples should be free of serious sin. It is strongly recommended that couples go to confession a week before their wedding.

WEDDING DETAILS

1. SCHEDULING

Weddings may be scheduled in our church Mondays through Saturdays. You may schedule a Saturday wedding at one of three times: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. (There is more flexibility in scheduling a weekday wedding than scheduling a Saturday wedding. Please note: I generally do not schedule Friday weddings because that is my day off.)

Weddings are not allowed on Sundays and during Holy Weeks. Weddings are also discouraged during the Season of Lent.

2. WEDDING REHEARSAL

Rehearsal times are generally scheduled for the day before the wedding.

3. FLOWERS

Our church is systematically decorated with flowers every Friday according to the particular liturgical season. Our usual flower decorations are very beautiful and are arranged by very talented flower arrangers. Wedding parties are not to move or remove our flower decorations in the sanctuary of the church (the area around the altar).

If you want to add flowers, you may put floral displays on short stands on either side of the altar. Flower arches are not allowed in the church.

No flowers/petals may be dropped on the floor of the church.

4. DECORATION OF THE CHURCH

The furniture, statues and other decorations in the sanctuary may not be moved or removed for the wedding. The sanctuary of a church is considered a holy space and is not a stage that can be rearranged for a wedding. Also, aisle runners are not allowed in church.

We have 48 pews in the church (24 on each side). You may decorate the pews with flowers or bows, however, decorations may not in any way hinder access to either end of the pew. We have a set order for the procession into the church and we don't allow

bridal parties to reverse the procession, coming into the pew from the side opposite the main aisle.

If there is a Saturday morning funeral, the wedding party can begin decorating the church at noon. If no funeral is scheduled the day of the wedding, the decorating may begin any time after 8:00 a.m.

5. MUSIC

Only approved church music may be played during a wedding Mass or ceremony. Please save your selection of “pop” music for your reception.

We have a new state-of-the art sound system in church that will play CDs or iPod music. The system is computer preset and easy to use, either for microphones or recorded music.

If you are in need of a musician for your wedding, please contact, Mary Lardizabal at pianokeys123@outlook.com or Leo Tangatailoa at tangatailoaleo@gmail.com. They will help you select appropriate church music and may be available to play for your wedding. If you have hired your own musicians, it is your responsibility to make your own arrangements to pay them.

6. PHOTOGRAPHY

Flash photography and video lights are discouraged during a wedding ceremony, however, may be used after the ceremony while taking group pictures. In general, you will be given about one hour for picture taking after your wedding. On Saturdays, all picture-taking must conclude by 4:00 p.m.

Please remember that photographers are not permitted to enter the sanctuary of the church once a wedding ceremony begins. Photographers may discreetly move around the church during the ceremony, however, they should not be setting up posed pictures of people in the congregation during the ceremony. Picture taking during the homily (preaching) is not allowed.

If the wedding photographer or videographer has any questions about what is allowed or not allowed during the wedding ceremony, he/she should talk to the priest or deacon before the wedding.

7. ALCOHOL

Alcohol is not allowed on church property. Please be aware that members of the wedding party are not to consume alcohol before the wedding ceremony. If a priest or deacon suspects that a bride or groom has consumed alcohol before the wedding ceremony, he may postpone the wedding.

8. FEES

Parishioner fee: **No set fee, however, a free will offering to Immaculate Conception Church is appreciated.**

Non-parishioner fee: **\$800**

Fees are paid to the pastor or deacon on the wedding day before Mass.