



Photography and You

How to plan your wedding and still have fun

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AJPress

AJPress Photo by Andy Tecson

Engaged couples have been asked by the Church to plan their marriages as well as their weddings. Planning for marriage can mean a formal preparation time as long as three months or talks with the pastor or pre-marriage courses and/or an Engaged Encounter weekend.

Along with the formal preparation needed to receive this most important sacrament, there are many social obligations as well. Most couples find that the three-month period before the wedding is packed with activity. Much preparation goes into planning parties, seeing that everything runs smoothly on the wedding day -- a favorite hall or music group for the wedding reception may have to be booked much earlier.

Individual plans vary and couples may want to begin planning earlier but the following timetable can help avoid last-minute crises, ease worry and add to the fun.

90 Days Before the Wedding

You've already seen the priest and talked about pre-marriage courses and individual counseling. Now you should set the time and date for your wedding and make arrangements for the church.

Decide what type of wedding you would like. Your pastor or the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission will have some helpful booklets.

Determine how much you are going to spend.

Consult with both families and draw up your guest lists.

Make reservations for your reception and/or dinner with your church, hall or club, and if necessary, with the caterers.

Reserve those services which are limited in the number they can serve. These include musicians and the photographer. Clear with your pastor when pictures can be taken in your church.

Invite your bridesmaids, groomsmen and ushers to participate in the wedding.

Choose and order the bride's wedding gown and dresses for her attendants. If the groom is looking for a special color or style for himself and his attendants, he should begin looking now. Usually a month to six weeks is early enough for the men in the wedding party to place their order.

Discuss color schemes with both mothers so they can order their dresses.

Select and register your silver pattern as well as your china and crystal.

Order the invitations, announcements and thank-you notes.

Discuss honeymoon plans so necessary reservations can be made.

Decide on decor and furnishings for your new home or apartment.

60 Days Before the Wedding

Reserve the florist for both the church and reception and discuss your plans with him or her.

Address, stamp and seal your invitations and announcements so they'll be ready to mail at the proper time.

Both the bride and groom should buy now what they will need for their trousseaus.

Set a date for the wedding rehearsal and arrange for the rehearsal supper.

Arrange for accommodations for out-of-town guests and attendants.

You should have a final idea of what the ceremony will be like.

Readings, music selections and special touches should be worked out with the pastor.

Pick up the marriage license in the district court where the woman resides. State laws vary with regard to how long it takes to get a license, how long they are good for, whether or not a physical or blood tests are required.

Buy gifts for your attendants and each other.

30 Days Before the Wedding

Make whatever final decisions remain on your reception menu and order.

Begin recording wedding gifts and writing thank-you notes, the reception. A list of special shots can be made for the photographer.

Arrange for utilities to be turned on in your new home.

Check on health and insurance policies. The bride can change her Social Security card, driver's license and bank account to her new name.

Check on clothing and accessories for the wedding party.

7 Days Before the Wedding

Start packing.

Begin moving your linens and household items to your new home or apartment.

Stock your kitchen with grocery staples and get supplies for your medicine chest.

Call all the wedding services to check on time and details.

Send wedding announcements to local papers. (Some consultants say this should be done on the wedding day.)

Display your gifts in some appropriate place at your home.

Keep up with your thank you-notes.

Estimate how long it will take to get ready--maybe even take a trial run--and plan to leave a little extra time on your wedding day.

Checks for clergy, musicians and caterer can be made out.

The Day Before

Have the guest book, napkins and place cards (with diagram) delivered to the reception hall.

Tell someone your honeymoon itinerary and arrange for someone to check your new home while you are gone.

Go to the wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner. Be sure to bring a camera.

Check your luggage and go to bed early.

The Wedding Day

Give your photographer time to take your wedding portraits before you start down the aisle.

Have someone on hand at the bride's home to answer the phone and the door and sit with the presents. Directions to the church and reception should be near the phone.

Relax and enjoy your special day!

"Pick up the marriage license in the district court where the woman resides. State laws vary with regard to how long it takes to get a license, how long they are good for, whether or not a physical or blood tests are required."

The Blushing Bride

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to your size, this is according to Sally Lorensen Conant, President of Orange Restoration Labs, the largest wedding gown preservation and vintage gown restoration service. Budget for alterations may run from \$300 or more.

For church weddings, a long formal dress is suitable. At a less-formal wedding, semiformal dresses will do and can be floor length, with a short veil and no train. Smart dress or tailored suit are best for weddings at the Registry Office.

Set a budget

A simple custom-made dress can be as little as \$750 and can go as high as \$10,000 for a signature gown. Off-the-rack dresses can be found for \$250 and up. Ask around when bridal stores are having a sample sale and be on the lookout for warehouse sales, discontinued styles and overstocks. Also check with consignment shops as designer names are cheaper here.

Tip: Try on a few designer gowns first and recognize the quality, then choose a dress based on your budget. Don't buy a wedding gown unless you love it. Settling for something you don't really like is never a good idea and you will regret it forever.

Hair And Make-up

You will be photographed the most in your wedding day; therefore you need to look your best. This is not just one of those ordinary days so do not attempt to do it yourself. Do not be stingy in your hair and make-up budget. Plan ahead and choose a licensed professional to ensure that you would look great and picture perfect on your special day. Splash out! Choose a full service salon which offers the complete services from skincare to makeup, hair, nails and the works. If you're going to do it, you may as well do it properly.

Before going to your stylist, browse through bridal magazines for pictures and search for the exact look you want—an easier way to communicate your preference. Ask for input or other style that you could pull-off and would best fit you and your gown. To bring sophistication and added effect on your look, try to match your hairstyle with your wedding

theme. Plan your hairstyle and let it complement with your headpiece and accessories. Others incorporate their wedding flowers for a classic wedding hairstyle tip. An elegant wedding needs an elegant hair or an elaborate up-do accented with hair jewelry. Remember all the angles. It's not just all about the front but the back and side styles as well. When working with your stylist, speak your mind. Do not hesitate to tell them whether or not you like what they're doing.

For the make-up, make sure to consider a licensed make-up artist trained in bridal makeup. It is very important to wear the proper amount of makeup for photographs. Book an appointment with your beautician 1 week before the wedding day for any waxing and facials you may need. If possible, have a trial run, complete with a photography session so you know exactly how you will look on your wedding day. This is to ensure that your hair and make-up is just the perfect match for you and your dress.

Keep these pointers in mind and you will definitely look your most beautiful as you walk down that aisle...besides, it's your wedding day and it's your time to shine!

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