

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Wedding Photography Guidelines and Agreement

Guidelines for Photography

This is a very difficult issue as photographers want to take as many pictures as possible in order to sell their product. We cannot allow a Mass (especially a wedding Mass) to deteriorate into a photography session. We recommend that you arrange a time before the ceremony when you can take staged photographs. The focus of the liturgy is the marriage service and the Mass. Your photographer (or videographer) must agree to these guidelines in order to take any photographs in our church.

Photographs may be taken during the ceremony from a specified location provided that:

- a. The photographer remain out of the view of the congregation
- b. The photographer does not move from their specified location,
- c. No flash is used

Videographers must remain in a specified location out of view of the congregation. The camera must remain stationary and on a tripod. Only available light may be used.

Photographers and videographers may never enter the sanctuary. Only a minimal amount of equipment will be allowed in the church at any time. This is not a photography studio!

The photographer needs to remember that during the ceremony it is impossible and completely undesirable to create a record of the ceremony.

The bride and groom are responsible for the behavior of the photographer or videographers. As this might prove uncomfortable for you we will help by requiring your photographer to sign the agreement that we have included with these guidelines. Please forward this to them before you make arrangements with them.

If you have a wedding program leaflet, please include the following statement to help guide guests:

"Please refrain from taking photographs during the wedding ceremony."

Photographers Agreement

The following guidelines are strictly enforced.

A wedding is a joyous occasion. Those who serve the bride and groom and their families have a special and unique opportunity. Photographs are a wonderful part of the offering that is made to the couple. We are aware of the service you offer and we are also aware that this is your livelihood. However, we understand perfectly that we have an obligation to the Catholic Church and the parish of St. Jude. In order to maintain the decency and solemn dignity of the wedding ceremony it is necessary that you follow these guidelines without any compromise. If you have even the slightest question or concern, please discuss these with a priest from our parish.

A period of time may be scheduled for pictures before the ceremony. This must be arranged by a staff member in charge of marriages. There may be no such activity in the church thirty minutes prior to the liturgy.

Our church and our facility must be used in an orderly fashion. Large amounts of photographic equipment are not allowed in the facility. You may bring only what you and your assistant may carry on your person. No carts or storage containers are allowed in the church. You may use a tripod and free standing lights only for staged photographs before and after the ceremony. These or any other equipment may not be attached to or placed in the pews. You may never stand in the pews or on any other furniture. No photographic equipment may ever be placed in the sanctuary. Nothing may ever be placed on the altar, ambo or baptism font. Please ask before you move any furniture.

During the ceremony no flash pictures may be taken. You may take available light photographs while remaining out of the view of the congregation. You may not move about to find a new spot. You may take "action" shots of the procession but only in the narthex. These may be taken using flash but once the procession has entered the doors to the church, you must cease photographing using flash or moving about.

Pictures may be taken after the ceremony but the rules applying to those before the liturgy also apply here.

Photographers with whom we establish a good relationship will be placed on a preferred list that will be given to bridal couples who are preparing for marriage.

I agree to all of the above,

Signed

Date

Please print your name and the name of your company