

CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

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THE CHURCH IS ITS OWN “WEDDING COORDINATOR”!

The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart adheres to all the rubrics of the Sacred Liturgy as approved by the universal and local Church. All the options and guidelines for weddings are explained at the following times:

- 1) When you meet our parish wedding secretary to reserve the Church.
- 2) At the Initial Couples Meeting (normally on the first Sunday of the month beginning at 12:30 pm in the Cathedral Centre). The theology of marriage will be explained first, and then the Pastor / Rector of the Co-Cathedral explains the wedding options and guidelines.
- 3) The priest or deacon assigned to the couple will meet with the groom and bride and explain in further detail the same options that are allowed and may be chosen for the wedding liturgy.
- 4) The groom and bride will make a reservation directly with the Co-Cathedral Music Department to attend a Couples Music Seminar (normally held 5-6 times each year at 7 pm in the Cathedral Centre). Only the groom and bride may attend this music seminar. The Music Department will explain what musical options are acceptable and allowed. All music must be sacred music. No secular music will be allowed prior to, during or after the marriage ceremony. See Wedding Music guidelines for further details about music.

WHO CONDUCTS THE REHEARSAL & THE WEDDING CEREMONY?

Only a priest or deacon from the Co-Cathedral with the assistance of the Co-Cathedral's own wedding assistant have the sole responsibility of the entire wedding rehearsal and wedding ceremony. The presence of the Co-Cathedral's wedding assistant is mandatory to ensure the wedding proceeds promptly and reverently. The Co-Cathedral's clergy and wedding assistant are the Pastor / Rector's representatives who enforce the Co-Cathedral's guidelines so that weddings will flow smoothly as the Pastor / Rector expects weddings to occur.

The Co-Cathedral's wedding assistant will ensure the entire wedding party is to be in line for the liturgical entrance procession 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the wedding. Weddings begin on time.

Any outside priest or deacon who will officiate at the wedding ceremony is encouraged to attend the rehearsal to observe how weddings are conducted here at the Co-Cathedral. He is to abide by all the Co-Cathedral's guidelines and customs.

OUTSIDE WEDDING COORDINATORS / CONSULTANTS / EVENT PLANNERS (paid or volunteer)

Only a priest or deacon from the Co-Cathedral with the assistance of the Co-Cathedral's own wedding assistant have the sole responsibility of the entire wedding rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

The Co-Cathedral does not use outside wedding coordinators / consultants / event planners in the preparation and execution of the Church's wedding ceremony. The Co-Cathedral staff interacts only with the groom and bride, not with any wedding coordinators / consultants / event planners prior to the wedding.

Wedding coordinators / consultants / event planners may be helpful for some couples with planning the rehearsal dinner, reception, or connecting to resources including flowers, photography, or transportation, etc.

But any outside wedding coordinators / consultants / event planners are not involved in any facet of the wedding rehearsal or in the wedding liturgy itself. The outside wedding coordinator / consultant / event planner must honor all aspects of the Co-Cathedral's marriage preparation, liturgy and guidelines.

If you have secured such any outside wedding coordinator / consultant / event planner, they may be present at the rehearsal as only an observer. Prior to the rehearsal, they are to introduce themselves to the priest or deacon and to the Co-Cathedral wedding assistant. Any outside wedding coordinator / consultant / event planner is expected to be professionally dressed (no jeans, tennis shoes, etc.) at both the rehearsal and wedding.

On the day of the wedding, any outside wedding coordinator / consultant / event planner may assist only with the following:

- 1) Ensure all in the wedding party are present one hour prior to the wedding time.
- 2) Ensure no food or drink, including alcohol, is ever present on the church premises (outside or inside). Bottled water is allowed only in the bridal room, not in the entrance / narthex. Ensure no one in the wedding party is chewing gum in the church.
- 3) Distribute the respective floral bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres for the bride / bridal attendants; groom / groomsmen; parents / grandparents prior to the ceremony. Make sure any flowers for the sanctuary and for the Blessed Virgin Mary be available one hour prior to the wedding time.
- 4) Assist with the distribution of possible worship aids (programs).
- 5) Adjust the bride's dress, if necessary, prior to the entrance procession. But only the Co-Cathedral's wedding assistant has the sole direction of the wedding entrance and exit procession. (The main church doors remain open once the liturgical procession begins, including prior to the entrance of the bride.)
- 6) May coordinate possibly the taking of pictures after the wedding ceremony, provided the professional photographer agrees. However, one must abide by the time allotments for picture taking. All photographers / videographers and outside wedding coordinator / consultants / event planners must abide by the Co-Cathedral's guidelines on photography and video taking.
- 7) Make sure both the bridal room and the church are clean once the wedding is over.

No furniture in the entrance (narthex) of the Church may be moved by anyone.

Honorarium for the Co-Cathedral's wedding assistant, Cyndy Wilson, is \$100. Such honorarium is to be given directly to Cyndy Wilson at the rehearsal.

It is the groom & bride's responsibility to communicate all the Co-Cathedral's guidelines with any outside wedding coordinator / consultant / event planner prior to securing this possible service, if you intend to do so. If any outside wedding coordinator / consultant / event planner does not abide with the Co-Cathedral's guidelines, the groom and bride understand their wedding deposit will be forfeited.