



## Wedding Photography and Videography Guidelines

The primary purpose of the event should be kept in mind at all times. A Catholic wedding is first and foremost a liturgy—that is, the public prayer of the whole Church, not just a private ceremony for those present. Marriage is a sacred vocation, and the Nuptial Service (Wedding Ceremony) is a sacred moment in the lives of the couple, their families, friends, and the entire Church. The wedding is a time of prayer and thanksgiving to God, commanding reverence, and respect for the sacred nature of the elements of the ceremony. Everything done at a wedding must be conducive and respectful of that sacredness, or it must be excluded from the wedding ceremony.

Understandably, most couples and their families desire to remember the wedding day with photographs and/or videos. The following rules are meant to maintain the dignified and religious nature of the Nuptial Service, while allowing the capture of this special time in photo and video format.

These rules are non-negotiable. If the photographer or videographer violates these rules during the ceremony, the ceremony will stop, and the photographer/videographer asked to leave. These rules apply to all professionals and amateurs equally. **The bridal couple must ensure that these rules are communicated to the official photographer(s) and to family members and other guests who might desire to use their cameras at the wedding.**

Cooperation with these rules will indicate the photographer's desire that the wedding be a joyful and memorable celebration for all the right reasons.

1. The photographer/videographer must meet the St. Rita Pastoral Care Coordinator handling the wedding before the ceremony starts. The photographer and videographer are welcome to schedule a tour of the Church in the weeks leading up to the wedding in order to be plan their session. They may also attend the rehearsal, if desired.
2. The photographer/videographer and his or her assistant(s) must obey the directions of the Priest or Deacon officiating at the ceremony and the Pastoral Care Coordinator at all times.
3. During the wedding NO flash photography is allowed in the church. If video camera equipment is used, it must be used without artificial lighting of any kind. Flash may be used during post-wedding photography (if time permits) but no electrical cables may be used, as all equipment should be batter powered.
4. Photographic equipment is not to be placed on the altar, ambo (aka pulpit) or any other sanctuary furniture. No electrical cables may be strung along the floor or walls for reasons of safety. Therefore, a battery pack must be used.
5. The photographer/videographer must not enter the Sanctuary of the church, the Eucharist Chapel or enter any of the aisles at any time during the wedding. See the attached floorplan at the end of this document indicating where the photographer/videographer may be positioned during the Nuptial Mass or Service.
6. Please note that the locations permitted for photography and videography do not permit a clear view of anyone walking down the center aisle head on. If these shots are desired, they may be recreated after the wedding, if time permits.
7. The photographer/videographer should be as unobtrusive as possible. At no time should the photographer stand in anyone's view and prevent anyone from participating fully in the wedding (including bridal party members, family members, ministers, musicians, guests, and anyone else present). There may be times when

- the couple leaves the Altar area to move to other parts of the Church. Their path must not be blocked in any way, and the view of the guests must not be blocked by the photographer, videographer, or their equipment.
8. The photographer/videographer should not walk around the church during moments of liturgical silence, solo singing, scripture proclamations, homily (sermon) and the like. Movement to other parts of the Church must be done during transitions in the Mass or Service only.
  9. No accommodation can be made whereby the audio recording can be tied into the church sound system or the officiating Priest or Deacon. Recording equipment, such as microphones or wires are not permitted for use by the bride, groom, wedding party or wedding guests. Because the couple is not connected to a microphone during the exchange of vows or at any other time, it is recommended that sound levels and coaching on how loudly to speak should be discussed during the wedding rehearsal, if needed by the photographer/videographer
  10. Church furnishings will not be moved for the sake of photographs. Seasonal decorations in the church for the liturgical seasons must be left in place as is for the wedding. All floral arrangements are pre-planned with the wedding party, so they are not to be moved in order to enhance photos or videos.
  11. The church will not be responsible for equipment or other items lost or stolen.
  12. Posed photographs arranged for after the Nuptial Mass or Service are allowed, provided there is sufficient time before the next Mass or scheduled activity. During the posed photographic session, admission to the Sanctuary will be allowed, but reverence for the Sanctuary and other sacred areas of the Church must be exhibited at all times.
  13. During the pre-arranged posed photo session (after the wedding) a proper and dignified atmosphere must always be maintained in the church. Lights will gladly be left "on" and candles lighted if desired. No "gag shots" will be allowed in the Church. Those should be reserved for the reception or other locations away from the Church and Church grounds.
  14. The photographer must dress professionally for the wedding (and the rehearsal, if he or she is in attendance) and must behave always in a manner befitting a church setting (jeans, T-shirts, beach wear, slippers, shorts, tank-tops, etc., are not professional dress).

## Logistics

- Prior to the wedding, you may take photos in any area that is highlighted in blue on the attached floorplan. Once the wedding starts (including entrance procession of the Priest/Deacon with the Groom, entrance of the wedding party and procession of the bride) the photographer and videographer are confined to the yellow area ONLY. Entering any of the aisles or going beyond the designated church columns is prohibited. Before and after the wedding, the photographer/videographers are welcome to use all areas noted on the floorplan.
- Groom and groomsmen will stage in the Groom's room (CHANGING ROOM on the floorplan). Bride will enter into the Narthex from the Limo Parking area and the Bride and bridesmaids will then stage in the Bride's room.
- When organ/piano prelude music starts the groom will join the Priest by the Baptismal Font area. The Bridesmaids and groomsmen will line up on the left and right side of the Baptismal Font area in the order in which they will process into the Church. Once the wedding party is fully staged, the bride will move from the bride's room into the Bride's Staging area out of sight of everyone else.
- The mothers will be seated during their designated music. The bridal party music will signal the start of the wedding party procession into the church following the pink area on the floorplan.
- The bride's entrance song will signal her arrival in the Baptismal font area and will continue as she processes down the aisle toward the groom on the Altar following the pink area on the floorplan.
- Wedding party will be positioned in the very front pews on the floorplan.
- Bride and Groom will remain on the Altar throughout the wedding.
- After the communion procession is complete, they MAY travel to and from the Marian Shrine to leave flowers for Mary using the north-west side aisle.
- If there are posed photos after the wedding, everyone will process from the center aisle toward the Eucharistic Chapel and down the side aisle back to the Altar.

# CHURCH FLOORPLAN - WEDDINGS

FLOOR PLAN

