

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WEDDINGS SCHEDULED AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

THINKING ABOUT CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING AT THE CATHEDRAL?

Below is some helpful information. For the convenience of couples getting married we have a simple online planning process for music and readings for weddings. We also have an online guideline booklet that goes into great detail to facilitate the planning of your wedding.

If a couple would like to be married at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church, how do they begin planning? To check available dates and times, the couple should call Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception's executive secretary, Gail Monaco at 816-842-0416 x124 Mondays and Thursdays.

How soon in advance of the wedding should a couple contact Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception? The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church suggests up to one year in advance.

When may weddings be scheduled at the Cathedral? Weddings are scheduled at the Cathedral on Saturdays at 11AM, NOON or 6:30PM. The wedding rehearsal is scheduled in the order it was booked. Weddings and rehearsals may not be scheduled Sundays, the week preceding Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve or Day, or when there are scheduled worship services. Weddings are not scheduled during the Lenten Season.

Does the couple need to be parishioners of the Cathedral Church to be married at Cathedral? We **DO** permit weddings for couples who are members of other Catholic parishes. All couples getting married at the Cathedral **MUST** be affiliated with a Catholic parish! They are as it were "renting" the Cathedral for their wedding. They must fill out the marriage registration form in their own parish as well as getting their marriage prep from that parish. They are also required to arrange for a Catholic clergyman to preside at their wedding.

Can we book a date if one or both of the wedding party is in an annulment process? The church says **NOT** to schedule a wedding until the annulment is granted.

What if one person being married is Catholic and their future spouse is not? Is that a problem? Usually not, but a special type of Church permission called a dispensation is required. Contact Gail Monaco or the presiding clergyman for your wedding for additional information.

What if someone was previously married and is now divorced? How does this affect planning for the wedding? There are a number of issues that must be addressed surrounding the matter of a previous marriage. The couple will need to meet with one of the parish priests or premarital ministers to discuss their situation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE DAY OF OUR WEDDING? What are the wedding day logistics – access to the building, photographs before and after the wedding?

- Many wedding parties bring snacks and water bottles to the Cathedral dressing room. Please be sure to assign someone to clean up after your wedding.
- The Presider and Grooms men enter from the Chapel area.
- Cathedral doors will open at 9:00am for weddings taking place at 11am and 10am for Noon weddings.

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- The bride and attendants may dress in the O'Hara room of the Cathedral within the time ranges indicated above.
- Photographs may be taken in the main church of the Cathedral before and after your wedding. See below for specific time schedules.
- We strongly suggest that photographs of the bride and her family and the groom and his family be taken separately before the wedding begins. For brides concerned about not being "seen" by the groom, the sacristan will ensure this will not happen prior to the ceremony.
- Following your wedding only 30 minutes remain to take pictures of the bride and groom, wedding party and celebrant. For this reason please schedule a receiving line at the reception in order to get maximum photography time at the Cathedral.
- Weddings taking place at 6:30pm should keep the following in mind. The 4:30pm Mass ends at 5:30pm and the parking lot may be full. Thus you will not be able to take many pictures before the wedding. You may arrange with your photographer to take pictures from 5:40pm until 6:00pm. Wedding guests generally start arriving after 6pm, therefore we suggest you plan taking any other pictures after the wedding with the following time limits; Weddings with Mass—pictures until 8:30pm; Weddings outside of Mass, pictures may be taken until 8:00pm.

WEDDING MUSIC QUESTIONS

The online booklet has great detail about music for weddings. Below are questions for which you may immediately need an answer.

Should we make our own arrangements for musicians?

The Cathedral's principal organist Dr. Pearson is assigned to be present and play for all weddings at the Cathedral. When he is unavailable, he will make arrangements with a staff organist to play for your wedding.

Should we hire our own cantor? The Cathedral has talented professional cantors who will be scheduled to sing for your wedding. They are familiar with the cathedral acoustics as well as the most common music chosen for weddings. For these reasons, we do not permit outside cantors/singers.

Our wedding is without Mass do we still need to hire a cantor? YES. The hiring of a cathedral cantor is required for all Cathedral weddings. Cantors sing during the prelude time as well as during the service. We assure you that you get your money's worth!

We have a good friend and/or relative who offered to sing/perform at our wedding...is this permitted? Family and friends who are vocalists and/or keyboard-instrumentalists are welcome to share their talents at your wedding during the prelude time, however they do not replace the cathedral organist and cantor.

We would like to have a trumpeter or violinist included in our wedding. Can you help us hiring these musicians? Yes the Cathedral can assist you in the hire of professional instrumentalists for your wedding. We can assist you in hiring any additional single musicians such as a trumpeter or violinist for your wedding. Contact Dr. Pearson: mpearson@kcgolddome.org

We wish to hire a music ensemble like a string quartet... do you have recommendations? The Cathedral music department frequently works with some of the finest local instrumental ensembles. The online booklet has many recommended ensembles.

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Is it possible to hire a choir to sing for our wedding? YES. The Cathedral Schola is a professional choir whose singers are available to perform at your wedding. You may hire the entire ensemble of 13 singers or in groups of 4 or 8. Contact Dr. Pearson for further information mpearson@kcgolddome.org

What are the suggested fees for a wedding service at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception? Contact Gail Monaco 816-842-0416 x124 gmonaco@kcgolddome.org to get information about current Parishioner and Non- Parishioner rates for weddings at the Cathedral. The wedding fees paid to the Cathedral do **NOT** include the services of the cantor, organist and any additional musicians nor does it include the stipend for the priest or deacon who presides at your wedding.

What is an appropriate stipend to give to the Presider for our Wedding? The term "Presider" refers to ordained Clergy -- Priests or Deacon's presiding at your wedding. It is a courtesy and a thoughtful gesture to provide the presider for your wedding with a stipend for officiating at your very important day. While there is no set fee, or expectation, they do appreciate your generosity and gratitude to them for their time and preparation in making your wedding a meaningful celebration of your love. We suggest a stipend of \$100-\$200.

May other Catholic priests or ministers from other denominations participate in the wedding ceremony? Priests from other Catholic parishes or ministers from other denominations are welcome to participate in the wedding ceremony. Visiting presiders from other Catholic parishes are expected to be present at the wedding rehearsal and must follow all Cathedral guidelines and policies for weddings. Our Diocese has specific guidelines for ministers of other denominations who participate in weddings at the Cathedral. Please ask them to contact the rector six months in advance of your wedding for information.

May we write our own vows? Original vows written by the wedding couple or any source other than the official Catholic ritual books are **not** permitted.

Can we have a unity candle at our wedding ceremony? The unity candle is not a part of the approved ritual for weddings, thus it is discouraged.

What about photography during our wedding. There are specific guidelines for photographers (video and still photography). The wedding booklet has specific information you should provide to your photographer. Some videographers ask if they can get a feed from the audio board. This is not possible. There are tie lines (XLR and 1/4" inputs on the wall downstairs where they can get a balanced audio feed for their video camera.

What about parking during our Wedding? Please let your guests know that **NO PARKING** is permitted in the Cathedral Towers parking lot to the west side of the Cathedral. The Cathedral has no authority over that property. They have a strict towing policy which is enforced 100% of the time. Guests who choose to park there **will** be towed.

What other information is helpful to those considering a Cathedral wedding? Because we are the celebrating your wedding in a sacred space – God's house, please use prudence when choosing a wedding

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gown. Many styles of strapless and low-cut gowns, although fashionable and popular may not be appropriate.

Who should we contact if we still have questions after securing your date on the Cathedral's calendar and after reading the online wedding guideline booklet?

Business, diocesan paperwork elements of your wedding:

Gail Monaco 816-842-0416 x124 gmonaco@kcgolddome.org (*Mondays and Thursdays*)

Questions about your wedding rehearsal, readings, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, servers, wedding logistics etc:

Deacon Steve Livingston 816-842-0416 x113 slivingston@kcgolddome.org

Questions about music, organists, cantors, musicians, liturgy:

Dr. Mario Pearson 816-842-0416 x119 mpearson@kcgolddome.org