



Arrival on Wedding Day

Men of the bridal party should arrive no later than one hour prior to the scheduled start time.

Women of the bridal party should arrive no later than one half hour prior to the scheduled start time and should go directly to Classroom 1. Any final preparation, including for the Bride, can be made there.

Liturgical Ministers

Priests- If you would like a priest other than our parish priests to do the wedding, this must be discussed and approved ahead of time.

Servers- If you have your own they must be approved ahead of time. Otherwise, we will provide the servers necessary. A small gift for each server is very appreciated.

Official Witnesses- The Best Man and Maid or Matron of Honor may be of any faith. Their names must be given to the officiating priest or deacon for inclusion in the marriage records.

Order of Entrance

The groomsmen will be at the front of the church when the bridal party processions begin.

The typical order of procession into the church is as follows:

- Grandparents, parents (ushered in by groomsmen, 5 minutes before wedding begins)
- Ring bearer & flower girl,
- Bridesmaids
- Maid/Matron of Honor
- Bride escorted by her Father.



Wedding Missalettes

We will provide wedding missalettes for your guests to follow along with the wedding ceremony and Mass.



110 State St. Harrisburg, PA 17101 • 717-889-4217

Mater Dei Wedding Policy Guide



The information in this packet applies to parishioners. If you are not a parishioner, but are interested in getting married at St. Lawrence Chapel, contact the Cathedral Parish of Saint Patrick.

Scheduling Your Wedding

Diocesan regulations require at least a nine month preparation period before the wedding can take place. Preparation will begin by meeting with one of the priests. To schedule a meeting with a priest, contact the office.

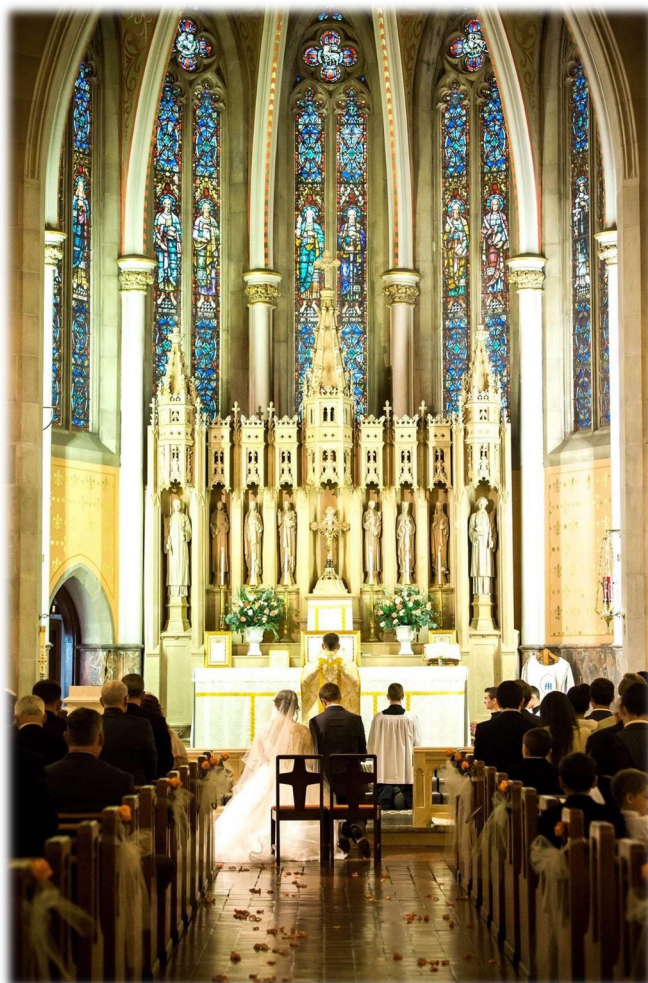
Weddings are normally scheduled on Saturdays at 12pm or 2:30pm.

Wedding rehearsals are normally set for 7:15pm the evening before the wedding.

Marriage Preparation

All couples must participate in a diocesan approved Marriage Preparation Program. Contact the office for more information.

A Marriage License must be obtained from the Court House prior to the wedding ceremony. The license is valid for sixty days and must be obtained within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Marriage License must be presented to the priest the night of the rehearsal, without exception. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your wedding.



Offering

The recommended church offering for weddings is 5% of the total cost of the wedding. This does not include music expenses.

Wedding Music

For all information regarding music, refer to our Music Policy Packet.

Flowers

You are permitted to provide the following flowers:

- Two large for main altar
- Up to four bases for side altar
- An offering bouquet for Our Lady

Pews may be decorated with bows or flowers and must be applied with rubber bands. Pew decorations may not include ferns or any other shedding plant or flower. No tape is allowed on the pews. The decorations on the pews may be removed and taken with you or discarded.

Any flowers placed in the sanctuary must remain in the Church as a gift from the bride and groom dedicated to the honor and glory of God.

If you do not have flowers to add to the altar, the Church always has flowers on the altar.

Aisle runners are not permitted.

Flowers petals, rice, bird seed, confetti, or the like may not be distributed in or outside of the church. Bubbles, small bells, castanets, etc., may be outside of the church as the bride and groom exit.

Seasonal decorations, placed by the parish, may not be moved or altered in any way.

Photography/Videography

Before the Wedding Liturgy

Before the wedding begins, the priest or wedding coordinator will need to speak with the photographer and videographer regarding the guidelines. Please secure enough time in your schedule for this.

To maintain a spirit of quiet meditation at this time. Therefore photos are not allowed in the church before a ceremony.

Access to the choir loft is at the discretion of the Wedding Coordinator & Music Director.

If the photographer and videographer do not adhere to the guidelines, they will not be invited to return to St. Lawrence for future weddings.

During the Wedding Liturgy

The Sanctuary is off limits during the marriage ceremony. The sanctuary is the area inside the communion rail.

Care should be taken not to block the view of the guests in attendance.

All filming must take place in the nave of the church and off to the side or from the back of the church.

After the Wedding Liturgy

The wedding party, photographer and videographer must be out of the Church by 2pm or 4:30pm.

No receiving lines are allowed in the church.

