



WEDDINGS

When making arrangements for a wedding:

MEMBERSHIP:

- At least one of the spouses must be Orthodox and in good standing as a pledging member with the Church, as must be the sponsor (Koumbaro/Koumbara.) Couples are encouraged to become members of an Orthodox church if they are not already.
- If either the Bride/Groom is not Orthodox, they must be a Christian who has been baptized using the formula "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."
- The couple should be willing to baptize their children in the Orthodox Church.

SCHEDULE:

- Contact the Church Office as soon as possible when setting the date for your wedding.
- Days when marriages are not permitted include January 5-6, Great Lent and holy Week, August 1 – 15, August 29, September 14, December 13-25, the day before a feast day and all Holy Days of Our Lord.
- Rehearsal should be scheduled at the same time as you schedule the wedding.
- The couple must meet privately with Fr. Teodor two times prior to the sacrament of marriage.
- If you wish the priest to attend the reception, please send an invitation to him in advance. Although it is difficult for the priest to attend every reception, he will make every attempt to come and give a blessing before the meal.
- It is expected that the wedding will start at the set time. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, the church will be open 1 ½ hours prior to the wedding for set up.

CEREMONY:

- The marriage must take place in the Orthodox Church according to the prescribed form of the Service Book, the Orthodox priest(s) being the sole celebrant(s).
- Should the presence of a non-Orthodox clergyman be requested, the Orthodox priest must receive permission from the Bishop. At the conclusion of the Orthodox ceremony, the guest clergyman, advised as to appropriate vesture and as agreed previously, will be properly acknowledged and may give his benediction and good wishes to the couple.
- Flowers are permitted in the church. There are 20 rows of pews in the center aisle.
- Runners are permitted down the center aisle, but the marble floor is beautiful, and we recommend going without a runner. If you choose to use a runner, please do not use plastic, as it becomes slippery and could be dangerous for your guests. The center aisle is 82' long.

- If an organist is desired to play prior to or after the ceremony, or to play processional/recessional, arrangements must be made thru the church office. No additional instrumental or recorded music is permitted to be performed in the sanctuary. If you'd like a vocalist to perform, music sung must be approved by the priest. Musicians (other than an organist) are discouraged.

Documentation needed:

- Couple must complete and sign the Metropolis of Detroit Affidavit of license to marry.
- The couple is responsible for obtaining the civil license, which must be within no more than 30 days prior to the marriage date.
- Documentation of baptismal records for both spouses is required.
- If one of the spouses has been previously married, they must provide the first and last page of their civil divorce paperwork. Furthermore, if a previous marriage took place in the Orthodox Church, the divorced spouse must also have received an ecclesiastical divorce. Please be advised, the Ecclesiastical Divorce process can take a few months.
- Documentation that the Sponsor (Koumbaro) is a member in good standing at an Orthodox church is also required.

Needed on the day of the Wedding:

- Stephana (crowns)
- Rings (for both bride and groom)
- 2 white candles
- Civil marriage license
- If desired, a tray or platter with white Jordan almonds (koufetta) are traditionally prepared for the wedding

Fees:

If the couple are not members of the Saints Constantine and Helen Church, and they do not wish to become members, there is a fee of \$400. It is also customary, but not required, to offer a small monetary appreciation to the serving Chanter, Assistant, and Priest.