

Our Lady of Peace Parish
20 East Dominion Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Marriage Guidelines

1. Our Lady of Peace Parish wishes to celebrate every marriage with due solemnity and joy. The parish staff offer the following guidelines to assist couples in preparing an enjoyable and memorable celebration.
2. All registered parishioners who have been contributing to the parish regularly for one year and their children have the right to celebrate their wedding at Our Lady of Peace Church. Others who wish to celebrate a wedding here will be assessed a fee of \$750.00 which must be paid before the wedding date is confirmed.
3. Only priests and deacons who are assigned to the parish preside at weddings at Our Lady of Peace. An exception is possible: (a) for a deacon who is the father or the grandfather or the brother or the uncle of the bride or the groom; or (b) for a priest who is the brother, the uncle, or the first cousin of the bride or the groom. Clergy more distantly related to the couple are welcome to concelebrate.
4. The priest or deacon who will witness the marriage has the responsibility of preparing the couple for marriage.
5. The couple should make an appointment with the pastor or deacon assigned to the parish at least six months before their anticipated wedding date.
6. Only the pastor or the deacon can schedule the wedding date. He can do so only after marriage preparation is complete.
7. The bride and the groom should obtain from the churches where they were baptized *recent* baptismal certificates (i.e., certificates issued within the previous six months) *showing all notations*. These certificates are needed for the prenuptial investigation file.
8. Marriage preparation at Our Lady of Peace Parish includes marriage preparation sessions and FOCCUS.
 - FOCCUS is an instrument that enables the couple to evaluate and enhance their communication in areas essential to married life. As a rule the priest or deacon who will witness the marriage facilitates the FOCCUS process.
 - Pre-Cana sessions are available through the diocesan Family Life Office (colsdio.org). The couple must complete some form of Pre-Cana but may choose the option that best suits their needs.
 - Participation in a Natural Family Planning program. The Family Life Office (colsdio.org) can assist the couple in selecting such a program.
9. The latest a couple may celebrate a Saturday wedding at Our Lady of Peace Church is 2 p.m. An evening wedding is possible only on weekdays.
10. The parish Director of Liturgical Music (Nathan Medley-nathan.medley@gmail.com) is in charge of all music arrangements. The couple should begin discussing their wedding plans with him at their earliest convenience. The couple must use only approved church music for

their wedding. Any other instrumentalists and vocalists the couple employ should come to the wedding with knowledge of the liturgy in which they are participating.

11. Our Lady of Peace Parish enjoys the services of wedding coordinators (Melody Simmons [MelDanSimmons@yahoo.com] and Bev Newkirk mbnewkirk1@att.net and Lisa Stechschulte Imastech4@yahoo.com who offer useful advice and assist with the rehearsal and the ceremony. The bride or groom should contact the coordinators as soon as they have set their wedding date with the priest or deacon. Their fee is \$150.00.
12. If the couple purchase flowers to decorate the altar, they may wish to leave one or two arrangements in the Church for weekend Masses. During Lent, however, the couple will remove all their floral arrangements from the Church.
13. The parish is unable to store anything overnight.
14. The parish does not permit the use of aisle runners. For safety reasons, no rice, no flower petals (either real or artificial), no birdseed, no streamers, and no confetti may be thrown either inside or outside the church.
15. Neither before, during, nor after the rehearsal, nor before, during, or after the wedding can drugs or alcoholic beverages be used.
16. The parish provides a special dressing room for the bride and her attendants. The groom and his attendants should arrive at the church dressed for the ceremony.
17. The wedding party should plan to arrive at the church no earlier than two hours before the wedding. The wedding party must vacate the premises one hour after the wedding concludes or by 3:15 p.m., whichever is earlier.
18. For Saturday weddings rehearsals generally occur on Friday in late afternoon or early evening. The couple should discuss with the wedding coordinators the scheduling of the rehearsal.
19. At the rehearsal the couple should give the priest or deacon their marriage license. They should give to the wedding coordinator suitable offerings for the coordinators, the musicians/organist, the servers (if they will have any), and the priest or deacon.

Guidelines for Wedding Photographers

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

The community does welcome photographers, both professional and amateur, both for still photographs and for videotapes. For a happy working experience, however, the parish insists that the following directions be observed.

At least fifteen minutes before the ceremony the photographer should meet with the priest or deacon in the sacristy to ascertain whether he has any personal directives in addition to the following ones.

During the procession (i.e., the wedding party's formal entry) the photographer should be as unobtrusive as possible. He/she should not position himself/herself or any photographic equipment in the center aisle down which the procession enters the sanctuary. He/she should not stop the procession to take photographs of individual members of the bridal party. The wedding ceremony is a sacred celebration, not a photographic shoot.

The photographer may take flash pictures during the processional and recessional *but not during the ceremony itself.*

The photographer should never be in the sanctuary area (i.e., on the steps or on the platform on which the altar, the lectern, the tabernacle, and the chair are located). He/she should never be in front of the altar or the lectern or the tabernacle or the musicians.

The photographer must have all his/her equipment out of the church within one hour of the conclusion of the wedding ceremony or by 3:15 p.m., whichever comes first.

The wedding coordinators can assist the photographer in finding suitable places to take posed pictures before the ceremony. However, the taking of these pictures should not delay the start of the ceremony.

The church itself is a sacred place in which a community of believers gathers for prayer. It is not a studio. This realization should guide the photographer in all his/her decisions before, during, and after the wedding celebration.

Under no circumstances should the photographer presume to move any church furnishings.

Guidelines for Florists

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

Because Our Lady of Peace Parish does not enjoy a weekend janitorial service, it is the responsibility of the florist or of the wedding party to remove all flowers, bows, potted plants, additional candles, and so on within an hour of the conclusion of the wedding ceremony or by 3:15 p.m., whichever comes first.

If the couple chooses to use floral displays for the ceremony, they may wish to leave one or two arrangements for church use in the sanctuary for weekend Masses. During Lent, however, the wedding party should remove all flowers from the church after the wedding.

Our Lady of Peace Parish does not permit the use of aisle runners.

Flower girls may not drop or scatter flower petals (whether real or artificial) or any other substance as they walk down the aisle in front of the bride.

Decorators may not pin, staple, tape, or nail anything to the church pews or other woodwork. To attach decorations they must use ties or rubber bands that do not mar the finish.

The floral arrangements should never obstruct access to or visibility of the altar, the pulpit, the chair, or the musicians. The wedding coordinators can assist the couple in deciding what kinds of arrangements are most appropriate for the space.

If decorations involve the use of candles, large or small, plastic sheeting must be placed on the carpet under them to protect the carpet from wax or oil spills.

The florist should assume that he/she will be able to begin setting up for the wedding no more than 60 minutes beforehand. If the florist needs more time, he/she should contact the wedding coordinators.

Nothing can be placed on the altar itself during weddings.