METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

Rev. Dimitrios J. Antokas, Presiding Priest

WEDDING INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George shares your joy at your upcoming celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Marriage.

The following information is important and will enhance the orderly celebration of your wedding.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO APPLY FOR THE CHURCH WEDDING LICENSE:

(Forms can completed online by visiting www.stgeorge.org/wedding)

- In the Greek Orthodox Church, both bride and groom are required to be stewards of their local parish and in good ecclesiastical standing.
    - If the bride and groom are stewards of St. George, a current pledge form must have been submitted. If, either are from another parish, a Letter of Good Standing from his/her Parish Priest is needed in order to complete all the necessary paperwork.
- An informational form (provided by St. George) must be fully completed, so that a Wedding Affidavit can be completed, and submitted to the Metropolis of New Jersey.
- A copy of the Baptismal Certificates for both bride and groom.
- 3 copies of the Civil Marriage License MUST be submitted prior to the wedding date. The license is to be obtained by the bride and groom from the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.
- If the bride or groom were previously married, the Supplemental Form 165 needs to be submitted.
  The following documents are required if there was a previous marriage:
    - Original Ecclesiastical Divorce Decree & a Copy of Civil Divorce Papers
    - If you are widowed, a copy of the Death Certificate

SPONSORS:

- The official witness(s) of the Sacrament must be of the Orthodox faith and a member(s) in good standing both spiritually and financially of their local parish. If married, his/her marriage must have taken place in an Orthodox Church. If from another parish, a Letter of Good Standing from the Parish Priest attesting to the above stated information must be submitted at least 1 week prior to the wedding date. If the Sponsor(s) have been divorced, they must present a verification of their Ecclesiastical Divorce.

REHEARSAL:

The time of the wedding rehearsal needs to be coordinated directly with the Priest.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR WEDDING

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE CEREMONY:

- **RINGS** for Bride and Groom
- **STEFANA** (Crowns)
- **CANDLES** - 2 white candles
- **SILVE TRAY**
- **KOUFETA–** Jordan Almonds

ARRIVAL TIME

The Church doors will usually be open at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled time of the wedding. **Please make every effort to be on time for the wedding. Other sacraments are likely celebrated on the same day and we need to be considerate of the people involved in their special moment.**

BRIDAL ROOM

The room off the Narthex serves as a gathering place for the bride and bridesmaids. This will give them the opportunity to leave any belongings there and receive any last minute instructions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ORGANIST

Should you desire the services of an Organist for your wedding please contact our Choir Director, Paul Mavromihalis at 301-455-6785. The singing and/or playing of secular music, non-Orthodox hymns, or the use of instruments other than the Church organ is not permitted before or during the ceremony.

AISLE & PEWS

The length of the middle aisle is 65 feet and 6 feet wide. It is suggested that if you are going to have a runner, that it is long enough to cover the entire length of the aisle. We have 28 pews (14 on each side)

CAMERAS AND OR VIDEOS

In order to insure the proper dignity and solemnity of your wedding ceremony, the taking of pictures and or videos is allowed but MUST be discussed with the Priest **prior to the wedding**. **LIGHTS ON VIDEO CAMERAS ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Photographers and videographers are asked to dress appropriately for a Church service.

CLERGY INVITATIONS

If the Clergy and their families are to attend the reception (if scheduling permits) a formal invitation should be sent ahead of the event. **Current Clergy**: Fr. Dimitrios & Presvytera Maria Antokas and Fr. Timothy & Presvytera Tina Perry.

If you are inviting visiting clergy to participate in your wedding, the Proistamenos should be notified ahead of time and the visiting clergy are asked to call the Proistamenos to verify their attendance at the wedding.

FLORAL CONCERNS

Any questions concerning your floral arrangements should be discussed with the priest. Pew bows may be placed on the pews but your florist must be told that they are to be placed on the pews ***without any kind of tape*** or other sticky substances that might harm the pew. The Church does NOT provide a runner for your wedding, this is usually procured through your florist.

BRIDE AND BRIDESMAID'S GOWNS

Please be reminded that your wedding is taking place in the House of the Lord. Appropriate gowns should be worn at the ceremony. Inappropriate and or "revealing" gowns should either not be worn or worn with a proper covering.