

Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage



*Useful and Important Information for Planning your
Wedding at the Cathedral of Christ the King*



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CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirement for marriage preparation is six months in advance of the desired date.

Freedom to Marry

Church law requires that both of you must be free to marry, that is, neither one was married before. If either of you were married before, either a civil or common-law marriage, and the former spouse is still living, you will need to obtain a declaration of nullity (annulment) on the marriage from the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, if you do not already have such a decree. The Christ the King Wedding Scheduler will assist you in starting this process. Under no circumstances can a date be set for the ceremony, even tentatively, until the Tribunal process is completed and a final decree is issued.

Interfaith Marriage

In an interfaith marriage, the Catholic party makes a promise to maintain his or her faith and do all in his or her power to ensure that any children born of the union will be raised in the Catholic faith. The party who is not Catholic makes no promises but is made aware of the promise by the Catholic party.

In an interfaith marriage, at the Cathedral, the Minister of the non-Catholic party may be invited to participate in the ceremony. The type of participation will depend on whether or not the marriage will be celebrated within a Mass. Having a Mass will involve participating in the readings and/or giving a blessing. Church law does not permit the Priest and Minister jointly to ask for and receive the vows, nor does it permit a double recitation of the vows.

By Church law, all weddings are to be celebrated in the Church. Special consideration may be given to marriages between a Catholic and a non-Christian. All such requests must be supported by serious reasons explaining why the exception is necessary and must be approved by the Pastor. If the Pastor approves, then a formal dispensation/permission must be requested through the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Atlanta by the clergy with whom you are preparing. Such permission, if granted, affects only the actual ceremony. You must still comply with the other provisions of Church law.

SETTING THE DATE

Reservation Procedure

To reserve a date for your wedding, you must first contact the Wedding Scheduler at Christ the King who will then send you a questionnaire that will need to be filled out and returned to begin the process. You can go online to look at available dates. Once you have confirmation that your date and time is available you will be sent a link to make your payment. Dates cannot be put on hold until payment is made. Once your payment has been made a confirmation email will be sent along with the Cancellation and Dress Policies that must be signed and returned.

The date and time of your wedding and corresponding rehearsal time cannot be changed without speaking to the Cathedral Wedding Scheduler. Any proposed date change is dependent upon the availability of your Priest or Deacon and the availability of the Sanctuary or Chapel. The new date and time is not confirmed until you have received confirmation.

If you are working with a Priest or Deacon outside of our parish, we will ask for his name and address and we will mail him our Visiting Priest Commitment & Delegation Request Form. This confirms in writing that he is willing to officiate, to work with the Bride and Groom to complete the necessary marriage preparation and paperwork required by Church law, and abide by all Cathedral of Christ the King policies and procedures for weddings. If he is not a priest or deacon within the Archdiocese of Atlanta, he is required to apply for faculties through the Cathedral within 60 days of the wedding date, and furnish a copy of the letter granting those faculties. From this point, the procedures outlined above will apply.

For the visiting clergy, delegation will be granted in writing once we have received a completed marriage paperwork packet from him, and if applicable, the letter granting faculties. We ask that the marriage documentation, as well as the letter granting faculties if applicable, be received in our Parish Office at least four weeks prior to your wedding date.

Wedding Times

Weddings are scheduled in the Cathedral on Saturdays only. The set times for weddings are 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.. (These times may not be changed.)

The time allowed for a wedding is 1/2 hours for set up, one hour for the ceremony and fifteen minutes for pictures and clean up.

Rehearsal Times

Rehearsals are scheduled based on the wedding day and are typically as follows:

If your wedding is:

Saturday, 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

Your rehearsal is:

Friday, 5:15 p.m.

Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, 6:45 p.m.

There are instances where rehearsal times are adjusted based on the Cathedral's schedule. Your Event Confirmation will have your correct rehearsal time on it – which may differ from the above.

Wedding Guild

The Cathedral Wedding Guild is a group of volunteers that will work with you to help plan the logistics of your ceremony and assist the Celebrant in coordinating your rehearsal and wedding day within the confines of the Cathedral. Consultation with a Wedding Guild volunteer at the Cathedral of Christ the King is required for all weddings, even if your Officiant is not a member of our clergy. The Guild meets in January, May and September. At those Guild meetings, the upcoming weddings are assigned.. Once your wedding has been assigned, your Guild member will contact you directly and they can answer questions about many of the practical details of your wedding. Please be aware that the entire ceremony is under the direction of the clergy and the Cathedral of Christ the King Wedding Guild volunteer assigned to your wedding.

Outside Wedding/Bridal consultants, if you choose to have them, are not to interfere, are required to abide by the Cathedral policies, and may function only under the direction of the Officiant and/or our Wedding Guild.

The Wedding Guild hosts a meeting for brides and other interested parties, typically the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. At that meeting, a Guild member discusses items of interest for planning your ceremony and is available for questions. Attendance at one of these meetings prior to your ceremony is required. If there are additional questions prior to being assigned to a Wedding Guild volunteer, you can email Joselyn Baker at jbutlerbaker@gmail.com.

FACILITIES

Our Sanctuary provides seating for 700.

Our Chapel has seating for 30 and is suitable for weddings whose guest list, excluding Bridal Party, numbers 30 people (not families) or less. Also, because the Chapel has small spaces, the number in the Bridal Party should be limited. The Wedding Guild does not assist with weddings held in the d'Youville Chapel.

The Cathedral is an active parish, and due to other scheduled events, the following timeline must be followed to accommodate both the wedding and regular parish life in harmony:

For a Saturday 12:00 p.m. wedding, the Church must be vacated by 1:30 p.m.

For a Saturday 2:00 p.m. wedding, the Church must be vacated by 3:30 p.m.

For a Saturday 7:00 p.m. wedding, the Bridal Party is asked to be considerate of the ending of the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass and to not block the Narthex, walkways and parking lot as parishioners exit. The Wedding Coordinator will direct the Florist, Photographer and Videographer to an appropriate waiting/preparation area. Preparations in the Church, including the florist, photographer, and videographer, may not begin until all parishioners have exited the Church following the Vigil Mass. The Church must be vacated by 8:30 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The required Marriage Preparation includes a marriage preparation class at the Cathedral, several meetings with the Officiant, completion of FOCCUS and review, as well as attendance at a pre-cana program recommended by the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

FOCCUS

FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Communication, Understanding, and Study) is an inventory given to engaged couples at the marriage preparation class. The Bride and Groom will fill out the inventory separately. FOCCUS is an aid for your marriage preparation. It can help you study, understand and communicate openly about many things that are important to your relationship. It is not a test or a way to predict the future. It is designed to help you target the topics you need and want to talk about as a couple, which provides an excellent introduction before beginning the pre-cana meetings with a Sponsor Couple.

PRE-CANA INSTRUCTION

Cathedral of Christ the King has trained Sponsor Couples for the Engaged. A Sponsor Couple will be assigned to work with the Bride and Groom upon completion of the FOCCUS review. The Bride and Groom will meet with the Sponsor Couple for a series of meetings to complete their marriage preparation.

Other programs available through the Archdiocese of Atlanta include:

Engaged Encounter – a weekend retreat
Archdiocesan Pre-Cana – a one-day workshop
Other Archdiocesan programs: Remarriage Workshop, AAMP, LLASU, and
Three to Get Married

Your Priest or Deacon will determine with you which program will be best for you.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Church Documents

The following documents are required by the Church:

1. Baptismal Certificates: **Catholics** need a recent copy of their baptismal certificate from the Church of their baptism, noting all Sacraments received, and should be no more than 6 months old as of the date on which it is handed to the Officiant.* All Catholics must have received all Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. If the Bride or Groom was baptized in another faith, and later was received into the Catholic Church, we need a copy of his/her Profession of Faith, with notations. Non-Catholics must provide some evidence of baptism, i.e. a certificate or letter from the Church's secretary, or a signed affidavit by a witness to the baptism. Bring these documents to the Priest or Deacon as soon as they are available.

**This can be easily obtained within a couple of weeks by writing to the Church where you were baptized requesting a "baptismal certificate with notations." The original certificate issued years ago is unacceptable.*

If baptized at a Military Chapel write to: Archdiocese for Military Services, USA, Sacramental Records Department, Post Office Box 4469, Washington, DC 20017-0469. You can either print a request form to mail to this address, or make your request online at <http://www.milarch.org/sacramental/index.html>. There is a processing fee of \$26.50 per request.

- 2.

3. Affidavit for Freedom to Marry: The Bride and Groom each need two affidavits completed on their behalf. Affidavits are completed by relatives or friends who attest that each of the espoused is free to marry. These forms must be either **notarized by a Notary Public or signed in the presence of a clergy member of the pastoral staff, or if out of town, in the presence of their own priest or deacon. Please do not turn in Affidavits without one of these forms of witness.** Forms will be given to the couple during their first meeting with the Priest or Deacon and should be returned as quickly as possible.
3. Archdiocesan Bride and Groom Questionnaires: These forms are completed by the Priest or Deacon at one of your meetings. Forms are signed and witnessed to certify that the information is correct.
4. Dispensation Form: Whenever a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, Christian or non-Christian, the Church requires this form to be filled out by the clergy and filed with the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. Whenever a marriage ceremony (reception of vows) is conducted by a non-Catholic minister or civil official, a dispensation form is required as well. The Clergy member will complete this form for you if required.
5. Letter of Permission from Pastor: If either party is a Catholic and a member of a parish other than the Cathedral of Christ the King, they will need to have the pastor of their parish provide a letter of permission in order to be married outside of their home parish.
6. Final Decree of Annulment: If either party has been married before and the marriage resulted in a divorce, evidence of an annulment will be required. For those who have already obtained an annulment, a copy of the Final Decree is required; if an annulment is required but not yet obtained, the Priest or Deacon can assist with this process. A wedding date cannot be entered on the Church calendar, even tentatively, until evidence of the annulment, in the form of a Final Decree, has been received.

Civil Documents

1. Civil Marriage License: A Civil Marriage License is obtained at any County Probate Court in the State of Georgia, however if you reside outside of the state of Georgia, you **must** obtain your license from Fulton County. License fees may vary, you can obtain specifics on fees and requirements by contacting one of the following offices:

Cherokee County Probate Court
90 North Street, Suite 340
Canton, GA 30014
770-704-2610 (information line)
678-493-6160

Fulton County Probate Court
North Fulton Annex
7741 Roswell Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30350
770-551-7638

Cobb County Probate Court
32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-1931

Gwinnett County Probate Court
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770-822-8265 (information line)

DeKalb County Probate Court
556 N. McDonough Street
Room 1100 DeKalb County Courthouse Annex
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2601

The Marriage License, along with the return envelope furnished by the County (preferably stamped), should be given to the Officiant at least one week prior to the wedding ceremony. It is illegal in Georgia for a clergy member to officiate at a marriage unless the license is in hand. Assurances that the license has been issued are not sufficient. **The Wedding cannot be conducted without the marriage license.**

2. Death Certificate: If either party has been married before and the marriage ended due to the death of a spouse, a copy of the death certificate will be required.

Marriage Certificates

On your wedding day, the Cathedral of Christ the King will issue a Church Certificate of Marriage to you.

To obtain a certified copy of your Civil Marriage Certificate, contact the Probate Court in the county in which you received your Marriage License. In some counties, you can arrange for this at the time you apply for the license.

FEE SCHEDULE

Sanctuary or Chapel

The fee for the Sanctuary or Chapel covers the use of: the Sanctuary or Chapel for the ceremony; the Sanctuary for the rehearsal; the Bride's Room; and the Groom's Waiting Area. This fee is due, along with the Church Reservation & Acknowledgement of Responsibility Form, within one week of reserving your proposed date.

Non-Parishioners and Registered Parishioners who are not active:

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Sanctuary | \$2,000 |
| Chapel | \$300 |

Active Registered Parishioners**:

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Sanctuary | \$1,000 |
| Chapel | \$200 |

An active registered parishioner is an individual who is registered at the Cathedral of Christ the King and who has been active in Time, Talent and Treasure for **at least six months prior to the reservation of the wedding date. The determination of whether one is an active parishioner is made at the point of scheduling the first meeting with the Priest or Deacon, and is based upon regular attendance at Mass, volunteer work in parish ministries, and financial contribution through regular and consistent use of parish envelopes or check, so that it is on record at the parish.

Officiant

It is customary for the groom to provide an honorarium to the Priest or Deacon officiating. The amount is a matter of personal discretion and should reflect your sincere appreciation. A recommended minimum of \$350 is appreciated.

Music

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Organist, Pianist, or Combination (one person) | \$350 (Base fee) |
| Cantor | Varies |

Additional music fees may apply, please see the Music Section (page 10) for more information.

Altar Server

Altar Server \$20 per server
(one server is assigned for a Liturgy of the Word, two for a full Mass)

Deadlines for Fees

The fee for the Sanctuary or Chapel is due within one week of your first meeting along with the Church Reservation & Acknowledgement of Responsibility Form.

The fee for the Altar Server(s), is due at the Rehearsal in cash. Altar Servers are coordinated by the Altar Server Ministry through information provided to them by the Wedding Guild. Music Department fees are due at their discretion, but must be paid prior to the ceremony.

Refund Policy

If a wedding is cancelled, the following schedule will determine the refund, if applicable, to the party who paid the fee:

- If cancelled at least nine months prior: 100% of fee is refundable
- If cancelled within six to nine months prior: 50% of fee is refundable
- If cancelled within six months prior: Fee is non-refundable

PLANNING THE LITURGY

Ceremony

There are two types of wedding ceremonies: Wedding Liturgy within the Mass and Wedding Liturgy outside of Mass. Both of these Liturgies celebrate unity. The Bride and Groom will discuss these options with their Priest or Deacon and decide which is appropriate for their wedding. All decisions and plans should be made while meeting with the clergy.

Two Catholics: It is highly encouraged that the celebration of marriage between two Catholics take place during Holy Mass, because of the connection of all the sacraments with the Paschal Mystery of Christ. The couple should understand that they are the ministers of Christ’s grace in the sacrament of Matrimony. The Priest who assists at the celebration of the sacrament receives the consent of the spouses in the name of the Church and gives the blessing of the Church. The purpose of the Priest and the other official witnesses (best man and maid of honor) is to express visibly the fact that marriage is a public, ecclesial (Church) reality. It is also highly recommended that before their wedding, the Bride and Groom would each make a sincere and good confession.

Interfaith Marriage: If one of the spouses is a baptized Christian of another denomination, either Liturgy may be used. However, if choosing the Wedding Liturgy within the Mass, only the Catholic party may receive Holy Communion because the Catholic Church does not recognize intercommunion. The Priest will give a brief explanation at Mass and will invite those who are not Catholic to come forward for a blessing. In addition, if one of the parties in the marriage is not baptized, then the wedding takes place most appropriately in the context of a Wedding Liturgy apart from Mass, which would not include Holy Communion.

Should you wish to include language in your program explaining the sacrament, the following may be used: **It is the Catholic Church's doctrine that we are unable to extend an open invitation for everyone to receive Communion. If you are not Catholic, we invite you to come forward at Communion to receive a blessing, and to be one with us in this faith community praying for Christian unity. When coming forward for a blessing, please indicate this by folding your arms across your chest.**

The Priest or Deacon will provide a copy of a wedding planning publication for the appropriate Wedding Liturgy chosen, which lists suggested readings and gives an overview of all prayers and vows recited. This booklet is designed to help you choose readings, music, prayers, etc., as well as wedding participants. You will use this booklet to discuss your ceremony with the Officiant and your Wedding Guild volunteer. You will be asked to complete the Wedding Information Form located in the back of the booklet and return it to the Priest or Deacon preparing you at least one week prior to the wedding date. You will also be provided a Wedding Logistics Checklist by the Wedding Guild to complete, which will also assist you in planning your ceremony.

Music

The first step in arranging music for your wedding is to contact Dr. Timothy Wissler at twissler@ctking.com or 404-267-3685. Following you will find further guidelines which Dr. Wissler will be able to discuss with you in detail as it relates to your ceremony.

Sacred Music—Since the wedding is a worship service, only sacred music may be used. You may suggest music for use during the service, and you may request the guidance or the officiant helping you in the planning of the wedding, but the final decision rests with the organist.

Guest Vocalists / Instrumentalists—All guest performers must be approved by Dr. Wissler or a member of the music department. Text of vocal solos are to be limited to Scripture and sacred poetry and must be approved as well. The Cathedral Music Department will be glad to assist you in securing cantors, soloists and/or instrumentalists.

Rehearsal - Music is not rehearsed at the wedding rehearsal. Guest musicians must confirm music and rehearse with the organist by appointment. If requested, there may be a fee for frequent meetings or rehearsals which require the presence of the music department.

- **Fees**— The base fee for one Cathedral organist/pianist is \$350. This base fee covers prelude music through recessional music. Additional fees will be assessed to accompany and rehearse with cantors and other musicians. Fees for guest musicians (visiting singers and instrumentalists) are set by the individual performer. The Cathedral organ is an extremely valuable instrument, quite complex in design and such an integral part of the daily Cathedral liturgies that only the staff Cathedral organists and associates are allowed to play. In the event that a guest organist is approved to play for a wedding, a bench fee of \$350 is required. Fees for Cathedral choirs are set based on the number of choristers required and can be determined by Dr. Wissler. No music rehearsal may take place during the wedding rehearsal due to time constraints.

Flowers, Candles and Decorations

You may use your own florist for floral arrangements used in the Sanctuary. Your florist will be asked to abide by the policies of the Cathedral.

Altar Flowers: The wedding sanctuary facility fee includes the use of the Cathedral’s flowers in place for the week’s masses and ceremonies. New floral arrangements are displayed each week. The Cathedral Flower Guild determines the color and flower types used in the altar flowers. The colors and types of flowers used are based on a number of factors.

First, the colors and flower types are consistent Holy Days within the Liturgical Year. Please see the chart below for examples of holydays where the colors and types

| Holy Day | Date | Color and/or Floral Type |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| Epiphany | January (1st Sunday) | Christmas Season Colors |
| Baptism of the Lord | January (2nd Sunday) | Colors vary |
| Lent | Date Varies | In general, Altar flowers are not permitted during the season of Lent, however, flowers are permitted for weddings. For any weddings during Lent, the flower color will be either compatible with all the brides’ colors for that day, or white, the alternative color. |

| Holy Day | Date | Color and/or Floral Type |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Palm Sunday | Date Varies | Colors: red & green, palms and red flowers on the Altar |
| Easter Sunday & Octave | Date Varies | Colors vary, but most likely will include lilies |
| Ascension of the Lord | Date Varies | Colors vary |
| Pentecost Sunday | Date Varies | Red |
| First Communion | Date Varies | White |
| Ordinations (Permanent Diaconate, Transitional Diaconate and Priests) | Dates Vary | Colors vary |
| <i>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | <i>August 15th*</i> | <i>Liturgical Color is white, however blue and white colors are often used*</i> |
| <i>All Saints</i> | <i>Date Varies*</i> | <i>White*</i> |
| Feast of Christ the King | November (3rd Sunday) | Colors vary, but are typically fall colors |
| Thanksgiving Weekend (unless it is Advent) | November (4th) Sunday | Fall colors |
| Advent (Weeks, I, II and IV) | Date Varies | No flowers, fresh greenery |
| Advent (III Sunday) | Date Varies | Rose colored flowers |
| <i>Immaculate Conception</i> | <i>December 8th*</i> | <i>White*</i> |
| <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> | <i>December 15th*</i> | <i>Bright colors such as red, orange, pink and gold*</i> |
| Christmas—Epiphany | December 25th—Epiphany (see above) | Colors: red and green. Christmas decorations, including items such as the nativity scene. |
| <i>Special Archdiocesan Events **</i> | <i>As announced **</i> | <i>Color and type depend on the event **</i> |

** Color is important only if this Feast Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday*

***The Cathedral of Christ the King hosts many special parish and Archdiocesan events and ceremonies. Floral decorations for these Archdiocesan events take precedent to weddings.*

Second, (when there is no specific Holy Day or ceremony) the colors and types of flower adornments are based on the color choice by the Cathedral Flower Guild. In general, the Cathedral Flower Guild tries to choose colors that are compatible with all the brides' colors for that day; and if there is not a compatible color, white, the alternative color will be used. However, in any event, due to the complexity of color shades and variations, the Cathedral Flower Guild gives no assurances/commitments to specific flower colors or types.

Illustration of how the flower colors are selected: When there are one, two or three weddings on the same Saturday, a Flower Guild member will contact the brides and ask what colors they are using. If the brides' colors are compatible (for example pale pink, hot pink and rose) the Cathedral Flower Guild will try to select a compatible color (such as in this example, pink/rose colors). If the brides' colors are not compatible (for example pink, orange, and blue) the color for the altar flowers will be white, the alternative color. Note that this practice is similar to the practice described previously for weddings held during Lent.

Providing your color to the Cathedral Flower Guild: You will be asked to provide your colors to the Wedding Guild. Please respond to the request as soon as possible because flowers must be planned and ordered well in advance of your wedding day. The Flower Guild coordinates the church flowers with the appropriate liturgical colors and those of the weddings that day. As described previously, there is no guarantee that the flowers will be the particular colors you are using in your wedding.

Adding Altar Flowers: Brides may choose to supplement the Cathedral's main altar arrangements with additional flowers. Additional flowers may be placed on the side altars, or elsewhere in the sanctuary, as space is available so long as the sanctity of the Cathedral is maintained. Any additional flowers must be approved by the Wedding and Flower Guilds and must be removed by the couple immediately following the ceremony. Couples may also sponsor additional flowers on the main and side altars by contacting the Cathedral Flower Guild.

Removing Main Altar Flowers: In general, a bride may not remove the Cathedral's main altar flowers. Any requests (to remove and replace main altar flowers) must be submitted to the Cathedral Flower Guild one month in advance of the wedding date.

Cathedral Flower Guild Contacts:

Cathedral Flower Guild co-chairs: Kathy Dukes (khd2352@gmail.com) or Linda Seitz (lksatlanta@aol.com).

Candles: The candles on both the High Altar and the Communal Altar will be lit for your ceremony. Unity Candelabrum are not available at the Cathedral. You may supply your own, but must use dripless candles. Your florist may supply additional candelabrum on the altar, but all candles MUST BE dripless. You are responsible for ensuring any candelabrum brought from an outside source are removed **immediately** following your ceremony. You may not use open flames as aisle decoration.

Pew Decorations: For the protection of the pew furniture, pew decorations may only be attached using ribbon, or a length of tulle, tied to the end of the pew to attach a flower arrangement. No tacks, staples, tape or putty may be used on pews, walls or furnishings. In addition, no shedding greenery and candles are not allowed on the pews. Anything used to attached flowers to the ribbon/tulle should be covered in fabric. All pew decorations must be removed by the florist or their representative, and any cleanup necessary due to removing the pew decorations must be done by same immediately following the ceremony. You will be held fully responsible for any damage to the pews or other furnishings as a result of non-compliance with the instructions given.

Outside Wedding Décor: Decorations are allowed on entry doors, both exterior and interior, however no tacks, staples, nails or other implements which may harm the wood may be used. No rice, balloons, birdseed, bubbles, sparklers, or confetti, etc., may be used. Any requests for other decorations must be approved by the Rector, via the Wedding Guild and if approved, must be removed immediately following the ceremony.

The Cathedral of Christ the King reserves the right to ask any Florist who violates these rules to either correct these violations immediately or to leave the premises. No exceptions will be made.

Flower Girls and Ring Bearers

Due to liability issues, flower petals, real or artificial, may not be strewn on the floors of the Sanctuary or Chapel or anywhere in or outside the church building or parking lot. The flower girl may carry a flower bouquet/ball or hand flowers to guests, provided she only does so on every other row so as not to slow down the procession. Otherwise, if you choose to have a flower girl in your wedding party, her role is to be strictly symbolic. The same is true for ring bearers. The rings to be used for the ceremony may not be attached to the ring bearer's pillow. The rings should be given to the Wedding Guild prior to the wedding so that she can place them on the altar. The minimum suggested age for both flower girls and ring bearers is age four. No signs or notices of any kind may be carried by either the Flower Girl or Ring Bearer (for example: Here Comes Your Bride).

Altar Servers

Cathedral of Christ the King Altar Servers will be assigned, as required, for your ceremony based on whether you will marry within the Mass (two servers) or outside of the Mass (one server). All weddings are required to have these servers, who have been trained on wedding procedures at the Cathedral. If the couple wishes to invite additional servers, that is acceptable and they are welcome, but will serve in addition to the Christ the King trained servers. All servers must be currently active and serving at a Catholic parish.

If the couple knows altar servers who have been trained at the Cathedral and wishes for them to serve at their wedding, they should contact Elizabeth Buyarski directly at 404-267-3683, or ebuyarski@ctking.com. She will verify that the requested servers are trained for weddings and will be sure the schedule is pre-filled with the proper assignments.

Photography

The photographer should direct any questions to the Wedding Guild volunteer during the time they are on the Cathedral premises and are required to cooperate with direction provided by the Wedding Guild and Officiant.

The choir loft will be open, permitting professionals that vantage point as well as the vestibule areas, center aisle positions to the rear of the seated guests and exterior areas including the garden, the **photographer may not enter the altar area during the ceremony, nor may they go down the side aisles.**

Posed pictures taken on the altar following the ceremony must be confined to formal family and wedding party group shots. Under no circumstances should informal shots, including members of the wedding party seated on the altar steps be considered.

The Cathedral of Christ the King does not allow flash photography during the ceremony. The official photographer, family and friends should keep in mind the sacred nature of the occasion and conduct themselves accordingly.

Pre-Ceremony Photos

Wedding Parties may not arrive at the Cathedral any earlier than one and a half hours prior to the start of the ceremony. Photos inside the Cathedral are not possible prior to the Wedding Ceremony. Pre-Ceremony photos may be taken in various areas around the Cathedral grounds – the garden area, iron gates at the Bride’s room entrance, etc. The photographer must be finished photographing any ushers 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. At 15 minutes prior to the ceremony, the wedding party will be brought to their respective places and may be unavailable for a short time during that transition

Post-Ceremony Photos

The time allocated for photos inside the Cathedral after the ceremony is 15 minutes. Please be prepared to move quickly through your list of photos. We suggest you provide your photographer a complete list of their “must-have” requests prior to the wedding to make the most of the time allotted. Any posed photographs involving the Officiant are to be taken first.

During the photography time after the ceremony, the photographer is the person principally charged with insuring that a respectful decorum, consistent with the sacred nature of the space, is observed by all involved. In the event the photographer has difficulties enforcing this, he/she may request the assistance of the Wedding Guild. When the Wedding Guild member has indicated that the allotted time is complete, the photographer and Wedding Party will be requested to leave the Cathedral and remove all equipment at that time.

Videography

The Bride and Groom make their own arrangements for videography.

All video equipment must be set up no later than thirty minutes before the scheduled time of the wedding in the designated areas, which are in front of the first pillars on either side of the church or in the organ loft. For the 7:00 p.m. wedding, the videographer may set up only after the parishioners have exited from the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Video equipment must be stationary during the ceremony; no “roving” camera is permitted. To ensure the sanctity of the ceremony, videographers shooting from the front pillars must be in place prior to the start of the ceremony and remain there until the ceremony is complete. The Cathedral does allow video equipment to be set in the center aisle, behind the last row of guests, after the procession is complete. This equipment must be removed prior to the recession.

It is not possible to connect to the Cathedral’s sound system. If sound is a concern, wireless microphones may be placed on the bride and/or groom. Wireless microphones are not to be placed on the Officiant.

No floodlights or other special or supplemental lighting may be used during the ceremony. Nor may any wires be laid across aisles or any equipment pinned, stapled or otherwise affixed to Church walls. If absolutely necessary, stage or gaffers tape may be used.

The Bride and Groom are responsible for ensuring the photographer and videographer have received a copy of these guidelines and agree to abide by them. The Cathedral of Christ the King reserves the right to ask any photographer and/or videographer who violates these rules to either correct the violation immediately or to leave the premises. No exceptions will be made.

Wedding Dress Policy

Great sensitivity is required in choosing your wedding dress. Your dress is to be appropriate to the sacrament you are about to receive. Dresses may **not expose cleavage, have bare shoulders, or have deep plunging backs (backless)**. If your wedding dress is strapless, you will need to wear a shawl or bolero (but nothing sheer or see-through) for the ceremony.

If you have a veil (which is not mandatory) please note that it is **NOT sufficient** to cover bare shoulders or back.

It is very important to follow these guidelines. For brides that do not follow this policy, an ivory or white shawl will be provided by the church for use during the ceremony.

For bridesmaid dresses, we also ask that you keep these guidelines and the sanctity of the ceremony in mind.

If you are not completely confident that your dress meets these guidelines or have questions about your bridesmaid dress selection, please submit your questions or a picture of your dress to Kathleen Swann at kswann@ctking.com.

Thank you for respecting the sanctity of this sacrament by your adherence to these guidelines.

(This page is copied directly from the agreement you signed to make your reservation.)

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- The Bridal Party is urged to arrive at the Church at the time given in the Facilities Section of this booklet, and to abide by the times listed as required departure time.
- No smoking is permitted anywhere in the parish buildings.
- **No alcohol** may be consumed or brought on the parish grounds or in parish buildings, either at the rehearsal, before the ceremony or at the actual ceremony and all wedding participants must arrive for the ceremony in a sober state. If there is any question to the sobriety of the party, the Priest or Deacon has the right to refuse to perform the ceremony, or ask the offending member to leave the premises.
- No flower petals (real, paper or silk) may be thrown by guests or flower girls. No aisle runners, or other items that could cause someone to trip in the aisle are permitted. No rice, balloons, bubbles, birdseed, confetti, sparklers, etc. may be used. Bells and colored glow sticks are allowed outside.
- Receiving lines and guest books are not permitted in the Narthex or Church. These delay the seating prior to the wedding and the recession following the wedding; there may be another Wedding or Mass to follow.
- The Cathedral of Christ the King nursery is not available during weddings. Under no circumstances will any room within the church be allowed for impromptu babysitting purposes by family or guests, as this is in direct violation of the Safe Environment Policies of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The Bride and Groom will be held responsible for communicating this policy to family and guests.
- For the sanctity of the Church, protection of parish property, security or your guests and for the overall decorum of your wedding, these regulations will be strictly enforced. It is the responsibility of the Bride and Groom to ensure that your florists, photographers, videographers, outside wedding consultants, wedding party, family and guests are aware of and observe these regulations.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The Cathedral of Christ the King reserves the right to cancel the wedding if the legal requirements under State or Church law are not met. In the event of cancellation for any reason, please refer to the Fee Schedule section on page 9 for the refund policy of wedding fees.

APPENDIX ONE

Order of the Ceremony

Processional

Seating of Grandmothers / Mothers
Processional of Celebrant (if Liturgical Procession)
Processional of Attendants
Processional of the Bride

Greeting / Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Psalm (Sung or Spoken)
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation (Sung or Spoken)
Gospel
Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful)

Liturgy of the Eucharist (if having a Mass)

Presentation of the Gifts
Eucharistic Prayer
The Mystery of Faith
Great Amen
Lord's Prayer (the Our Father)
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Lamb of God
Distribution of the Holy Eucharist

Devotion to Our Lady (if applicable)

Final Prayer and Blessing

Recessional

APPENDIX TWO

Congregational Responses for a Wedding Mass Updated According to the New Translation of the Roman Missal

GREETING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

INVITATION TO PRAYER

People: May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his Name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

APPENDIX TWO CONTINUED

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

Priest: The mystery of faith

People: A – We proclaim Your death O Lord, and profess Your resurrection until You

come again. –OR–

B – When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim Your death, O Lord, until

You come again. –OR–

C – Save us, Savior of the world, for by Your cross and resurrection, You have set us free.

SIGN OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us. (Repeat)

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world:

Grant us Peace

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the

word and my soul shall be healed.

CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.