



Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church

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Photographers and Florists

The Archdiocese of New Orleans does not allow a Catholic wedding to take place outside of a consecrated church or chapel. Thus, the primary reason a couple should choose a church wedding is its sacramental nature. While photographs, videos, floral arrangements and decorations are important, the focus of all of our efforts should be to protect the solemnity of the occasion. Your cooperation is essential in order to ensure a prayerful celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The following guidelines have been established for photographers:

Videography

1. A Video camera may be set up in the rear of the church and/or a affront side aisle and may run throughout the ceremony, provided it is not moved and the photographer does not move about in a distracting way.
2. Placement of equipment must not obstruct the flow of traffic in the side aisle at communion time.
3. There are to be **no video camera on the altar**

Still Shots

1. Photos may be taken in the center aisle before Mass begins and from the rear of the church. From only the side aisles after mass begins. Movement of photographers should be restricted to the side aisles, and should be kept at a minimum.
2. During the procession, the photographer **must not** ask the parties processing to stop for pictures. All pictures of the procession must be done on the move.
3. To keep the focus on the Mass, the wedding ceremony, and the Bride and Groom, **no photos may be taken from anywhere in the sanctuary** during the ceremony. The sanctuary is the area on or above the bottom step, across the front of the church, and includes the side altar areas.
4. No flash photos may be taken during the homily or during the Eucharistic Prayer, the consecration, or communion of Mass.

Photos Before and After the Ceremony

1. There are to be no pictures taken in the altar area of the church prior to the wedding.
2. There are to be no pictures taken at the back of the church prior to the wedding. This interferes with getting the wedding party ready for the procession.
3. You may take pictures in the front area outside of the church before and after the ceremony.
4. All pictures of the wedding party must be complete in **twenty (20) minutes** following the wedding.

The following guidelines have been established for florists:

Florists

For insurance reasons we cannot allow:

1. Candles in the aisles – which means we cannot allow candlelight ceremonies
2. Aisle runners
3. Flower petals to be dropped before or after the ceremony
4. Rice to be thrown outside of the church

All of the above create health and property risks and are therefore a liability to the church and the archdiocese.

Please do not use tape to attach flowers or ribbons to pews. We suggest either plastic holders or circular ribbons that slip over the end of the pew.

Bouquets of flowers:

1. May be placed on either side of the altar on stands or pedestals (the church owns two types of stands)
2. Please do remove flowers and other decorations within twenty minutes of the service