



Ss. Mary and Joseph Church

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Policy: Photography and Videography during Weddings at Ss. Mary & Joseph

Most couples wish to have photos or videos taken at church on their wedding day to capture the place and the special moments of the ceremony. Our goal at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church is to support couples celebrating marriage here in a way that respects our worship space and allows our celebrating community to be fully engaged in the wedding liturgy.

Please keep in mind that our Lord, Jesus Christ is present in our tabernacle. We must insist on proper reverence and respect in our church at all times. Any behavior or actions which disrespect this request is taken as an affront not only to the Catholic Church, the parish staff, and the parishioners of the parish, but it is also offensive to the wedding couple and their guests. As such, willful disrespect to the Church and its contents would reflect poorly on the values of those who present themselves as professionals, and will not be tolerated.

Our photography and videography policies are designed to preserve our Church's sacred environment which is quite different than the environment of a photographer's studio. We request that you keep posed photography in our worship space to a minimum. (You may request the use of our parish center, gymnasium, or another part of the facility for posed photographs.)

The policy which follows is a condition for your employment in our church as a professional photographer:

Posed Church Photographs Before and After the Wedding:

- It is always a good idea to introduce yourself to the priest ahead of time to touch base on his expectations concerning photography and videography.
- Posed photographs may normally be taken in the church for up to 1-1/2 hours until one-half an hour before a wedding, and then for the time up to one hour after the wedding ceremony. *It is usually best if all posed pictures can be taken before the wedding so that the couple may concentrate on their most important role after the wedding, which is providing hospitality for their guests.*
- Because of our parish's liturgy schedule, photography after Saturday weddings must be completed by 3:30 p.m., regardless of start time. Any photographer who continues to take photos after 3:30 p.m. will be charged a \$300 studio fee. ***There will be no warnings or remediation.*** This fee must be paid in full and within 30 days of the wedding before the photographer will be allowed to return to Ss. Mary & Joseph Church for another wedding.
- Sanctuary furnishings or decorations (including flowers, the unity candle, and other decorating elements for a wedding) may not be moved. No extra backdrops or decorations (other than those that are approved and in place for the wedding) may be brought into the church.
- Posed photos in the sanctuary space may only be taken in front of the altar table, around the unity candle stand, if it is present, or in front of the Holy Family statue in the back of the church. Photos in other parts of our sanctuary (including the ambo, the area of the tabernacle, the priest's chair, and behind/on/or around the altar table) are prohibited. Posed photos in other accessible parts of the facility outside of the church proper are permitted.

Posed Church Photographs Before and After the Wedding, continued:

- No untoward poses, behavior or language is allowed. No smoking, food, gum, or beverages are allowed in our worship space, and no alcoholic beverages are permitted on our church property. Anyone violating this policy will be asked by the pastor or the priest celebrating the marriage to leave the church and the church property immediately.
- If there is a desire to include the presiding clergy in a posed picture after the wedding, this should be done first, in order to allow him to attend to other needs in the facility afterwards.
- In the event that a photographer or videographer is asked to leave due to unprofessional behavior, fulfillment of any contractual obligations between the couple and the photographer will have to be resolved at another place and another time. Ss. Mary & Joseph Church shall not in any case be responsible for any incidental or consequential losses or loss of business as a result of a photographer or videographer being dismissed from the premises.

Photographs and Videos during the Wedding:

- Photographs and videos may be taken during the ceremony, but photographers and videographers must be discreet taking photos only from the rear or sides of the church. In no event are photographers allowed to enter the sanctuary (the raised parquet flooring) when the wedding is underway. A videographer may place a stationary, unattended tripod in the sanctuary before the ceremony with the permission of the presiding priest.
- Flash photography and extra lights for video are prohibited.
- The photographer and/or videographer may take pictures of the wedding party from the front of the church only during the processional. They may not halt the processional to pose a picture during this time.
- During the exchange of vows, the couple will be facing the congregation, thus making the placement of photographers and videographers in the back of the church advantageous.

Acceptance of the terms outlined in this document on part of the photographer and/or videographer (as well as any employees or agents working with or for them) is a prerequisite for providing any professional or commercial services at Ss. Mary and Joseph Church and may not be altered, except by written permission of the pastor.