

FIRM PROCEDURES FOR WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Saint Peter the Apostle Church is the physical building in which this parish community gathers to worship God. Even though you have been hired by the bride and groom to perform for them a service, the atmosphere of reverence and quiet must be preserved in our church at all times.

The church building is a house of prayer, and not a photography studio. So that you may effectively provide the wedding couple with the service they desire, we present to you the following guidelines to ensure that both you, and this parish, achieve the desired end goal for the couple:

- Pictures before the ceremony are not allowed in the sanctuary area of the church under any circumstances. Only the priest or the wedding coordinator will turn on the lights within the church.
- For the entrance procession, you may position yourself in a pew in the main aisle to take pictures of the wedding party as they enter the church. Do not use a tripod at this time. Naturally, as members of the wedding party pass, you must step aside. Once the wedding liturgy has begun, you may not enter the main aisle.
- Video cameras on a tripod in a fixed position are allowed, provided that position is chosen in accordance with these guidelines. We prefer that videotaping be done from the choir loft/balcony or the west side aisle away from the main sanctuary area. Electrical outlets are located throughout the church. No extension cords are allowed to run across aisles or around, near, or into the Sanctuary.
- During the wedding ceremony, pictures may be taken from the back and side aisles. A Catholic wedding is a sacred time. Please limit unnecessary movement and other distractions, which might interfere with the reverent nature of the celebration. Please do not use the aisle across the front of the church. Do not enter the sanctuary at all for pictures, it proves to be too much of a distraction. The sanctuary is not intended for casual use. At no time are the couples to be instructed to pose for pictures during the ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, pictures are allowed for a period of twenty minutes if the wedding begins on time, of course. Please remember that a spirit of quiet and reverence is to prevail if the favor of a picture session is to be extended to the wedding party. Please stress this to the wedding party when taking pictures in the church after the wedding ceremony (the extension and duration of this favor is up to the discretion of the Pastor or Deacon and the parish's Wedding Coordinator should the situation arise).

- At no time are the sanctuary furnishings to be moved or used as "props" for wedding pictures. The altar, pulpit and presider chair in the sanctuary are likewise not to be used; flowers, candles, etc. are to remain in place. Picture taking should only be done on the lower section of the sanctuary. Following picture taking inside, pictures outside must be done in a reverent and proper manner. The display of alcohol or champagne bottles as "props" is strictly and absolutely prohibited at any time. This includes the time before, during and after the ceremony on church property.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation with the guidelines.

Should you have any questions, please contact the parish staff contact, Patti Zubak, by phone at 630/773-1272 (ext. 200) or by email at office@stpeteritasca.com. You may also talk to Patti or another Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal or before the wedding.

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

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