

Wedding Date \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

It is the responsibility of the couple to return this signed to the priest at their second meeting.

## **Wedding Photography and Videography Policy**

### **Principals Underlying Policy**

1. The focus of the Wedding celebration is the sacrament being entered into by the bride and groom. Everything else should support this end. The focus is not the future remembrance of this day. We could easily sacrifice the present for the future.
2. The wedding takes place in a consecrated space. The church is not a rented hall. It is “set apart” (consecrated) for religious purposes. To act in it as if it were an auditorium or a place of business would desecrate (break the consecration) of the place.
3. The role of the photographer/videographer is to record the event, not create an event. This means two things.
  - a. The photographer/videographer does not alter the celebration by directing participant’s activity for the sake of what the photographer feels would be a better picture.
  - b. The photographer/videographer would not him or herself appear in the celebration. (Photographers do not go onto the football field even though it would sure be nice to have a picture of the inside of the huddle.)
4. The participants in the wedding (and hence the sanctuary, the field of activity) includes not only the wedding party, but all the guests as well.
5. The front area of our church is extremely small. Hence it is impossible for a photographer to be present there without interfering with the vision and activity of the family and wedding party.

### **The Policy**

1. The photographer/videographer is to remain outside the sanctuary during the entire celebration (including the entrance procession and recession). The sanctuary includes the area where the guests are seated. (i.e. the pews).
2. Places pictures may be taken from include the balcony and the Gathering Space to the south of the pews.
3. No flash pictures may be taken from the completion of the opening procession to the beginning of the procession out at the end.
4. All equipment used by the photographer/videographer will be stored in the reconciliation room (small room on the east side of the Gathering Space) when not in use.
5. At no time may the photographer/videographer use the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, either for picture taking or equipment storage.
6. With regards to picturing taking in the church before or after the liturgy, the photographer will secure the permission of the priest to move any furniture or decorations in the church.
7. All picture taking will be done and the wedding party be gone from the church and their cars from the car port by 3:30pm on Saturday.

**Implications of the Policy**

1. Most professional photographers and videographers naturally comply with the above policy. If a photographer feels they cannot work under these circumstances, or fails to work under these circumstances, they forfeit the privilege of taking pictures in this church. A list of photographers who have so forfeited that privilege will be given to engaged couples as they begin to plan their wedding.
2. Given the limitations of our church, the couple will need to decide how they want to do the wedding procession. If it is important to them to have pictures of the couples coming in together, then they will plan to have the wedding party couples come in together from the back of the church, thus allowing space for the photographer to get their picture before they enter the sanctuary.
3. Often there is attachment to having a picture of the parent(s) giving away the bride. If this is important than the couple will want to plan the entrance procession in a way that allows the photographer/videographer to picture that from his or her place in the Gathering Room. It can easily be done by having the bride, with her parent(s), face the groom in the center aisle.

It is the responsibility of the couple getting married to return this policy when it has been signed by the parties listed below to the priest at their second meeting with him.

I the undersigned have read and agree to the above policy.

_____	_____
Couple getting married	Date
_____	_____
Photographer	Date
_____	_____
Videographer	Date
_____	_____
Priest	Date