



## **WEDDING CEREMONY PROCEDURES**

Welcome to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, nestled in the Historic District of Ybor City in Tampa, Florida. For over 120 years, this sacred place has been a beacon, drawing people nearer to God.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

The Church rejoices with engaged couples and prays that their love will grow more profound and more beautiful as they commit themselves to each other in the Lord.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, in accordance with Pastoral Guidelines for Marriage preparation, Diocese of St. Petersburg-Tampa, Florida.

### **SCHEDULE YOUR WEDDING**

- ❖ Weddings are a celebration of love, and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we are dedicated to making your special day memorable. We schedule weddings on Saturdays between 11:00 am and 2:30 pm. If you have a special request for timing, the priest will make the final decision. There will be no weddings scheduled during Holy Week.
- ❖ We encourage couples to reach out to the Parish Office at least one year before their desired wedding date, but not less than six months before.

- ❖ The Office Manager will conduct the initial interview to ensure your eligibility to move forward with marriage preparation, check for date and time availability, and arrange an appointment to bring in your deposit, and secure your wedding date.
- ❖ Once the date is confirmed, the priest will reach out to you to schedule a meeting to begin the beautiful journey of marriage preparation.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

It is with profound awareness of the richness and beauty of the sacrament of marriage that the Catholic Church throughout the State of Florida has written a Common Policy for Pastoral Marriage Preparation.

**Additional documents required for a Catholic Church marriage will be discussed later with the priest. The requirements may vary based on the specific circumstances: whether both individuals are Catholics, one is Catholic and the other is a Christian, Non-Catholics, between a Catholic and a Non-Baptized, and for the Non-Baptized party.**

- ❖ Catholics must present a baptismal certificate dated within six months of the wedding date.
- ❖ Both bride and groom must complete, individually, under oath, and in the presence of a priest, a prenuptial questionnaire known as the “A” form.
- ❖ Two relatives (preferably parents) or friends of each party must sign individually, under oath, in the presence of a priest, deacon, the “B” form to declare the freedom of each party to marry.
- ❖ All couples will take marriage as a means of determining strengths and weaknesses regarding readiness for the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- ❖ A marriage preparation course is mandatory for ALL COUPLES, whether one or both parties are Catholic. The couple is encouraged to attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend. The Pre-Cana conference will also meet this requirement if the Engaged Encounter Weekend is an impossibility.
- ❖ If there has been a former marriage, both the Marriage Certificate and the Death Certificate or Declaration of Nullity must be produced.
- ❖ *Interfaith marriages*, if one of you is of a faith tradition that is not Catholic, you may be expected, as a couple, to participate in additional enrichment sessions. This will allow you the opportunity to discuss practical implications of your life

together, such as: (a) identifying with a faith community, (b) the religious formation of children, and (c) the feelings of family members.

- ❖ If a priest other than the local parish priest is to perform the ceremony, he must have the pastor's permission. If the priest is from another diocese, his diocese must provide certification that he is a priest in good standing with his diocese.
- ❖ The Catholic party should attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before marriage.
- ❖ A non-Catholic minister may take part in the Catholic wedding ceremony.
- ❖ Under no circumstances are beach, garden, home, theater, etc., settings permitted for the celebration of the sacrament. It must take place in a Church.

### **PLANNING THE CEREMONY**

The couple will work alongside the Wedding Coordinator to plan the prayers, readings, and format of the wedding ceremony before the rehearsal. Together, they will ensure that all details of the ceremony adhere to the church's guidelines as well as liturgical and social etiquette. The Wedding Coordinator will lead the rehearsal and oversee the wedding ceremony.

### **MUSIC**

Music for the wedding ceremony should be liturgical. For an additional cost, arrangements for all music can be made with our Liturgical Music Director, Nchick Pacis or with Vic Omila. They will be able to make suggestions and assist in planning music selections. Go to [Music - Our Lady of Perpetual Help \(olphtampa.org\)](http://Music-OurLadyofPerpetualHelp(olphtampa.org)) for more information.

Nchick Pacis Tel. (813) 317-5319

Vic Omila Tel. (813) 405-5584

## **FLOWERS**

The floral decorations in the church shall remain in place and undisturbed. Flowers are permitted in designated areas of the church, while fresh flower petals and runners are not allowed within the premises.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY**

Most professional photographers are familiar with the guidelines for capturing images and videos during a wedding ceremony. However, it is the couple's responsibility to clearly communicate these guidelines to the photographers. Taking pictures and recording videos should not disrupt the ceremony or obstruct the view of the altar. Additionally, photographers are not permitted to enter the altar area to take photos during the ceremony.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Birdseed, rice, confetti, bubbles, etc. are not permitted in the Church or on the parish grounds, which includes the rectory and parish hall. Food and drinks are not permitted in the church sanctuary. A cleaning fee will be assessed to the couple for failure to return the church and grounds to order after the ceremony.

## **ALCOHOL**

At no time is alcohol permitted on the premises before the wedding ceremony nor is any member of the wedding party to consume alcohol before the ceremony. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in the cancellation of the wedding ceremony.

## **REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals are held the evening prior to the wedding ceremony. All who are taking part in the ceremony must attend the rehearsal. The Wedding Coordinator will conduct the rehearsal.

## PARKING

Our Lady of Perpetual Help offers ample complimentary parking for guests.

## WEDDING FEES

Parishioners and non-parishioners:

- \$1500 - \*Included- Wedding Coordinator fees, church usage, and local Celebrant stipend  
\*The couple is responsible for providing a celebrant stipend to visiting ministers
- \$350- Deposit due when wedding is scheduled. **This amount is non-refundable.**

**\*\*Music fees are not included. \*\***

**The total amount is due 30 days prior to the wedding date!!**

*Thank you for selecting Our Lady of Perpetual for your wedding celebration. We are excited to collaborate with you. May you be blessed.*