



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 deeper 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. However, weddings may occur any day of the week with the exception of Holy Week at which time no weddings are scheduled.
- ❖ 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 Secretary 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.

- ❖ 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

Together with the Wedding Coordinator, the couple will plan prayers, readings, and wedding format prior to the rehearsal. They will fulfill the role in helping plan the details of the wedding ceremony according to the church, liturgical and social etiquette. We do not use outside wedding coordinators in the planning and execution of the wedding ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will conduct the rehearsal and guide 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://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.

HOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

The majority of professional photographers understand the protocols for capturing photographs and videos during a wedding ceremony. However, it is the responsibility of the couple to clearly communicate these protocols to the photographers. Picture-taking and video recording should not disrupt the ceremony at any point or obstruct the view of the altar. Photographers are strictly prohibited from entering 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 school and parish center. Food and drink 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 counts with plenty of complimentary parking space for your 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

***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.