

ST. PATRICK OF HEATHERDOWNS

POLICY FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

The first and foremost guiding principle for taking pictures at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church is that we are celebrating a Sacrament in a worship space.

Keeping this in mind, photographers should:

- ***BE mindful of time limitation.***

Since more than one wedding may be scheduled for the same day, it is especially necessary for you to keep to the scheduled times. The time allotted for the use of the Church facilities is two hours, total. The wedding party may be in the Church ½ hour BEFORE the scheduled time of the wedding and for 1 ½ hours AFTER the starting time of the wedding. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled for 3 p.m on Saturdays. Using the Church after this time requires respect for those wishing to pray.

- ***BE respectful of the Sacrament***

What takes place in the Church is a religious ceremony/the celebration of a Sacrament. Photographers may not enter the sanctuary (the raised area containing the altar, as well as the circular area in front of the steps) during the wedding ceremony. In addition, photographers may not take photographs or set up still cameras/video cameras behind the brick wall that divides the choir area from the sanctuary.

The appropriate places for photographing/videographing:

- ❖ A) the balcony at the west end of the Church
- ❖ B) the main aisle at the center doors (note it is only 52 ft. from the doors to the altar)
- ❖ C) to the left or right of the white beams behind the last row of pews.
- ❖ D) As the procession begins, you may photograph from the front of the altar steps, however you may not stop the procession.

No flash may be used during the Mass or Ceremony.

Upon the completion of the procession, photographers return to places a, b, or c.

- ***BE respectful of the worship space.***

It is important to note that the Church's worship space is used before and after the wedding ceremony for many purposes (i.e. private prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, weekend liturgy preparation). Because of this photographers are asked to help maintain a quiet, reverent use of the space.

- ❖ Photographers should not remove and/or stand on pews or chairs, before, during, or after the wedding ceremony.
- ❖ When giving directions to the wedding party, please keep verbal instructions at a volume conducive to an atmosphere of prayer.
- ❖ The Eucharistic chapel is not to be used.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Jack Gerding,
Director of Liturgy and Music
419-381-7251 or jack.gerding@toledostpats.org

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POLICY FOR FLORISTS

The wedding couple celebrates a sacrament of the church. Florists should be mindful of this. Environmental changes reflect the liturgical season being celebrated (i.e. Advent, Christmas, Easter, etc.). Florists may not remove (even temporarily) the present environment decorations.

Four liturgical candles in the sanctuary are the only candles to be present. This means you may not have any candles of any other type (i.e. candelabra style) in the sanctuary or the main body of the Church.

The exception is the couples' unity candle. While the unity candle is not part of the Catholic ceremony, if a couple has chosen to incorporate this into the celebration, this candle is to be placed on a table to the side of the altar. It is never to be placed on the altar.

The liturgical procession of the wedding party will be down the main aisle from the narthex.

- ❖ The practice of dropping rose/flower petals is not permitted.
- ❖ Aisle runners are discouraged but permitted.

If you are considering a runner, the following should be taken into account:

- The couple will be asked to sign a release relieving the parish from all liability.
- St. Pat's aisle is carpeted.
- The runners usually are made of paper or plastic, which punctures easily, especially under the pressure of spiked heels and have proven to be dangerous.
- The runner often tangles and proves hazardous to those walking on the runner.

****If a runner is used, the runner must be pinned to the carpet, not taped. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to dispose of the runner immediately following the wedding.**

All flowers in the sanctuary while not at all necessary, if used at the wedding, are considered a donation to the church and are not to be removed after the ceremony.

Any decorations placed on the pew ends may never be taped. Over time, the tape pulls off the varnish. Decorations must be designed in a way that they are tied by ribbons (string) or the use of a rubber band, which easily stretches around the end of the pew.

****Again, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to dispose of the few decorations immediately following the wedding.**

The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, rose petals, etc. is **not permitted** during the ceremony or at the conclusion of the ceremony. A Toledo City Ordinance prohibits the use of helium balloons.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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