

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 1-1/2 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.

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