

# *Greek Orthodox Church of Zoodohos Peghe*

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## **SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE CHURCH POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**



Congratulations on your upcoming nuptial! We are delighted that you have chosen ZoodohosPeghe to celebrate your Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless you with His Grace to live together in love! We look forward to welcoming and assisting you to prepare for your sacrament, as we are dedicated to making your planning easy and your celebration most meaningful and memorable. The following are your sacrament contacts:

### **OFFICE SECRETARY/SACRAMENTS DIRECTOR**

Our Office secretary/Sacraments Director will be directing you through the preparation of your sacrament and is responsible for: booking your sacrament date and time; communicating with the Priest, processing your sacrament documents; and scheduling your pre-marital meeting with the priest. Upon receipt of your Marriage Request form, the Office Secretary/Sacraments Director will send you a confirmation letter along with additional information regarding your Ecclesiastical Marriage License. You may then schedule a meeting with our priest and proceed with your wedding plans.

### **CLERGY**

You will be welcomed by our priest for a pre-marital counseling meeting to discuss personal and ecclesiastical details. Our priest will be available for you to spiritually guide you during your engagement and through your Christian walk of married life as Parishioners of our church. It is your responsibility to make the appointment directly with the office secretary.

### **PLANNING FOR THE SACRAMENT**

#### **PUNCTUALITY**

The punctual arrival of your wedding party is not only a requirement, but also an expression of respect to the House of God, the clergy, and other sacraments scheduled following your sacrament. We kindly emphasize that your wedding party is required to arrive half hour prior to the scheduled sacrament time, as the sacrament must begin at its scheduled time.

## **REHEARSAL**

The rehearsal is scheduled with the Office Secretary/ Sacraments Director during the week prior to your sacrament, and is limited to the wedding party. All members of the wedding party are required to attend. Please be punctual and dress appropriately for a house of worship. Food and beverages are not permitted in the Church at any time.

## **WEDDING ATTIRE**

When deciding on your attire and the attire of your bridal party, please respect that Zoodohos Peghe is a house of worship. When in doubt, please contact our Office Secretary or the priest for guidance.

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

For safety reasons, throwing rice inside and outside the Church is not permitted. As an alternative for the outside, we suggest you use flower petals, bubbles or any eco-friendly send-offs.

## **MUSIC**

The Service for Christian Marriage of the Eastern Orthodox Church is the official service used for weddings at Zoodohos Peghe. Because the ceremony is a witness to the Christian gospel and its understanding of marriage, the content of the service is under the supervision of the officiating priest. The inclusion of other personalized forms of commitment, music, scripture lessons and hymns is not permitted.

## **SOLOISTS**

Vocal and instrumental soloists are not allowed during the service.

## **PHOTOGRAPHER, VIDEOGRAPHER, FLORIST, PROFESSIONAL WEDDING COORDINATOR**

Your Photographer, Videographer and Florist are requested to review the Zoodohos Peghe policies as listed below.

### ***PHOTOGRAPHER***

Flash photography by photographers and guests is only permitted before and after the sacrament. Flash photography during the sacrament is not permitted, as excessive flashing has an adverse effect on the preservation of the iconography and décor of the church, and interferes with the sanctity of the sacrament.

- Before and after the sacrament, one photographer may be in front of the first pew to take flash photographs of the wedding party during their procession down the aisle and their departure.
- During the sacrament, photographers may only take non-flash photographs from the side areas shown to them prior to the sacrament.
- At the conclusion of the sacrament, posed flash photographs may be taken in front of the altar with reverence. The photographs should be limited to 20 flashes and the following poses: Bride and Groom, Bride and Groom with bridal party, sponsors, parents and grandparents.

## **VIDEOGRAPHER**

- Before and after the sacrament, videographers may tape the wedding party from the assigned areas only during their procession down the aisle and their departure. Taping or interviewing guests while sitting in the pews is not permitted.
- During the sacrament, taping is only permitted from two stationary positions shown to them prior to the sacrament. Camera lights and additional floodlight stands are not permitted as they distract from the reverence of the sacrament.

## **FLORIST**

The church is an elaborately decorated edifice and two permanent large flower arrangements in urns add to its beauty. Additional flowers and decorations may be used. If you chose to add adornment to the Church, the florist may provide bows and/or flower sprays for the pews, flower petals for the flower girl, and a white runner for the center aisle. At the conclusion of the sacrament, the Church's staff will remove all decorations immediately. If you chose to save them, prior arrangements must be made with the office secretary.

## **PROFESSIONAL WEDDING COORDINATOR**

If you choose to have a Professional Wedding Coordinator, please be aware that the Office Secretary/Sacrament Coordinator is ultimately responsible for all services provided at the Church before, during and after the sacrament.

## **REQUIRED SACRAMENT ITEMS**

- **CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE – Please see Ecclesiastical Requirements**
- **A SET OF STEFANA (Crowns)**
- **2 WEDDING BANDS**
- **2 WHITE CANDLES**
- **1 POUND KOUFETA (White Jordan almonds)**
- **1 SILVER TONED TRAY (Average size 12"x16")**
- **SACRAMENT PROGRAMS with an explanation of The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (Optional)**

Above items are to be submitted to the Sacrament Coordinator at the wedding rehearsal.

*As you begin your married life, we prayerfully ask God to guide you through your sacred commitment to marriage and inspire you to continue your involvement in our Zoodohos Peghe community. Being part of His Church adds stability to your marriage and enhances your overall married life. There is a great Joy of Belonging to the family of God.*