

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEDDING INFORMATION FORM

Marriage is a holy sacrament of the Orthodox Church. Those who wish to be married in the Church are asked to communicate openly with the parish priest so that the requirements of the Church are clearly understood, and the expectations of the couple are met. Following are some guidelines which must be followed:

1. At least one of the parties to the proposed marriage must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing. The other party, if not Orthodox, must be a Christian baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity.
2. At least one witness must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing (they do not have to be a pledging member of St. George Church).
3. Please, be sure to clear the wedding date with the priest and the church before you book your reception hall.
4. Pre-marital counseling with the priest is required for both parties. It is the couple's responsibility to contact the priest and arrange a time for this.
5. Weddings are not permitted during fasting seasons of the church, during Bright Week and the week following Christmas. They are also not permitted on eves of Feasts or Saturdays. However, a couple may be permitted to be married on a Saturday with the understanding that the wedding may start no later than 3:00 pm so that everything is finished by the start of Great Vespers at 5:00 pm.
6. Those who have been divorced may not be married in the church without reconciliation by the Metropolitan-Archbishop and the spiritual court. You may see the priest for guidelines concerning second marriages in the Orthodox Church.
7. The Orthodox witnesses must participate in the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion prior to the wedding service.
8. The service of Holy Matrimony in the Orthodox Church is beautiful and rich in tradition. It is forbidden to add anything to or delete anything from the service such as musical instruments or secular music. Appropriate music may be used prior to and after the service, subject to prior approval by the priest. Use of only Orthodox music is encouraged. Please work with the priest and the choir director or chanter (as the case may be) to select appropriate music for your wedding.
9. Invitations to other Orthodox clergy to attend and/or participate in the service must come from the priest.

USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES FOR WEDDING. The church and hall facilities will be made available to you for your wedding rehearsal and on the day of your wedding. In addition to the church, the hall facilities are available for your use, i.e., dressing, photographs, etc. No "rental fees" are required for the use of church and hall facilities in connection with the wedding service. However, since St. George Church will incur expenses for cleaning the church and hall facilities before and after your event, as well as utilities, etc., a donation is requested in the form of a fee to cover these costs. A discount is provided for supporting members of St. George Church. The requested donation is as follows:

Rate: \$300

Pledging Member Discounted Rate: \$150

Note: At least one member of the bridal pair must be a pledging member of St. George Church to receive the pledging member rate. All fees must be received by the church prior to the date of the wedding.

USE OF SMALL HALL OR THE MICHAEL G. NASSIF CENTER FOR RECEPTION. If you wish to use the small hall or the Michael G. Nassif Center for your rehearsal dinner or reception, please ask the church secretary for a Hall Use Agreement, which contains the terms and conditions for such use, and contact a member of the Hall Rental Committee.

ARCHDIOCESE RECORDS FEES. Please complete the form on the reverse side and return it to the church secretary with a \$10.00 fee (checks should be made to "Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese"). This information is needed for local church records and for your marriage certificate, which will be mailed to you from the Archdiocese office after the wedding.

WEDDING INFORMATION FORM

Bride's Full Maiden Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Age as of Wedding Date: _____

Groom's Full Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Age as of Wedding Date: _____

Date of Marriage (Month, Day & Year): _____

Marriage license issued by state of _____

WITNESSES: (PLEASE PRINT)

Mr. _____ Address _____ Home Parish _____

M _____ Address _____ Home Parish _____

Other Orthodox Clergy to be invited to Wedding:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Home Parish _____

FEES TO BE SUMITTED WITH THIS FORM: *Please enclose two checks*

Facilities Fee: \$ _____ (Make check payable to *St. George Church*)

Archdiocese Records Fee \$ 10.00 (Make check payable to *Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese*)