



ST. CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗΣ

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For the Bride and Groom

Congratulations to you and your families. We are very pleased that you have scheduled a Sacrament to be performed at the Greek Orthodox Community of Saint Catherine's in Braintree, MA. Our parish rejoices in your decision to create a new family through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

May our Lord, the author and celebrant of true marriage, guide you surely to your wedding day and bless you richly every day thereafter with His grace so that you may prosper in life and in faith, and may your love for one another grow and deepen day by day and may your years together be long, healthy, joyful, fruitful, and filled with an abundance of every good and perfect gift that comes from above.

As you plan your wedding day at our Church, we would like to offer the following information for your careful consideration.

1. It is important that you make several appointments to meet with the priest well in advance of the Wedding.
2. The Sacrament of Matrimony is celebrated for and with two Orthodox Christians or for an Orthodox Christian and another Christian whose baptism is recognized by the Church. Canonical issues pertaining to your marriage, should any exist, will be discussed during the initial meeting with the priest.
3. The Metropolis of Boston requires that all couples attend the *Journey of Marriage Seminar* prior to the wedding. A schedule and other materials for the Seminar will be provided to you by the church secretary. A check of \$100 to the "Metropolis of Boston" is required.
4. At least six (6) weeks before the wedding you must obtain a Civil Marriage License from your local Town Hall. Immediately thereafter, you must plan to meet with the priest to prepare your application for the Ecclesiastical Marriage License. It is important that this meeting takes place no later than five (5) weeks before the wedding.
5. The bride and the groom are expected to be stewards in good standing of Saint Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church. A stewardship form is available upon request. Should one of you be a member of another parish, you will be required to present to the priest a *Letter of Freedom* from your church stating that you are not married. In addition, the baptismal certificate of both is required.
6. The sponsor (koumbaros) must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing with the Church and with his/her parish. The sponsor should have a letter from his/her parish if he/she is not a member of Saint Catherine's. If the sponsor is not a member of an Orthodox parish, they will be required to become steward of St. Catherine's. A stewardship form is available upon request. In addition, the baptismal certificate is required (if single) or a marriage certificate (if married).
7. If the bride, the groom, and the sponsor are stewards of another parish, a facilities fee of \$300 will be required.
8. The bride and groom are required to each have a wedding band. The wedding bands will be presented to the priest at the beginning of the ceremony. The crowns (*stefana*) and the two candles are also required for the ceremony, and are by custom provided by the sponsor.
9. Other extraneous matters, such as rehearsals, music, photographs, flower arrangements, and runner, should be discussed with the priest at one of the meetings. Rehearsals should be scheduled with the church secretary. Should you desire to have an organist, it will be necessary to arrange for one. If you are planning to invite another clergyman to the service, please inform the priest at one of the meetings.
10. It is customary to give a voluntary offering to the sexton and chanter for their services. You can turn these monetary gifts in sealed envelopes with the rest of the paperwork.
11. Kindly submit all required documents and fees to the church at least five (5) weeks before the wedding, so that the Wedding Certificate may be prepared in a timely fashion. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the priest or the church secretary at 781-843-0047. Thank You!