

Photography / Videography for Wedding Liturgies

IT'S IMPORTANT TO SHARE THIS PAGE WITH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS IN ADVANCE. *Copies of this page are available from the parish office and at www.stmarygr.org/Photography. You're responsible for making sure they receive these guidelines.*

A balancing act is necessary to respect the wedding liturgy and the worship space, record the event, and take photos or video that are artistic, creative and beautiful. Above all, photographers and videographers are expected to be both **reverent** and **discreet** during the liturgy.

The use of the church for pictures is a privilege, not a right of either the couple or the photographer. All photography or video before, during or after the liturgy must respect the sacredness of the sacrament and of the church. As a guest of our parish, do not move any existing flowers, furnishings, candles, plants, or seasonal decorations.

The church will usually be open no sooner than 2½ hours before the scheduled wedding time. After a wedding, please complete all photos and have the church clean and empty of all equipment within 1½ hours after the end of the liturgy. Photo sessions may be held inside and outside the church before and after the liturgy within these time boundaries.

We strongly discourage separating or “hiding” the bride from the groom before the wedding liturgy. Such a practice is incongruous with this sacrament. Please keep this in mind when scheduling photographs.

It is necessary to **avoid any movement** or action during the liturgy that will distract from or interrupt our worship. Therefore, photographers and video operators will not be allowed to operate near the sanctuary (front) during the liturgy. Movement up the side aisles is distracting and therefore strongly discouraged. *Please remain behind the assembly and work as discreetly as possible.* There is a **small space at the front of the side pews** where a stationary camera or video recorder may be discreetly placed and operated. A stationary camera may be allowed to the right, near the piano, only if it does not interfere with the musicians. (Please ask.) No cameras will be allowed between the other front pews and the sanctuary.

The **organ loft** is an excellent vantage point for photography and videography during the liturgy. Keep in mind that the traffic path of the organist to and from the north side of the organ console must not be obstructed.

During the entrance procession, flash may be used. There is only one procession, and it includes everyone—the wedding party, parents, and the bride and groom. The photographer may place themselves in front or in the center aisle at that time, *but may not slow or stop the procession in any way.*

During the rest of the liturgy, only non-flash photography is permitted. Our worship space is not brightly lit. Our light fixtures cast an amber glow. Please plan ahead to bring the equipment you may need.

Please be aware that there are times during the liturgy at which the assembly stands. For example, everyone stands during the entire entrance procession, not just for the bride. During those times, the lines of sight are most clear down the main aisle or from the loft.

Every moment of our worship—word, song and silence—is intentional and significant. This fact is especially important to anyone recording the liturgy with **video**. Consider continuous video footage of the entire liturgy to honor the spirit of our liturgy.

Photographers and videographers are encouraged to be familiar with the Roman Catholic *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (2016) as part of their preparation.

We may be able to offer a sound feed for video from our sound system. Please contact the parish staff in advance for more information.