

Destination Wedding Guidelines
(For Non-Parish Members)



Sts. Markella & Demetrios
Greek Orthodox Church

104 Bryn Mawr Blvd.
Mary Esther, Florida 32569

Rev. Fr. John Wallace, Presiding Priest

Congratulations on your engagement!

We are pleased that you are considering Sts. Markella and Demetrios as a possible location to celebrate the sacrament of holy Matrimony. We would be honored to assist you with this celebration and offer the information below to help you decide how you would like to proceed.

Sacrament of Matrimony - Eligibility

At least one member of the wedding couple must be a member in good standing in an Orthodox parish. The couple must provide a letter from their parish priest stating that one or both of them are members in good standing in the parish.

The couple must provide a copy of the baptismal certificate for both the bride and the groom. If the bride or groom is widowed, a copy of the death certificate of the deceased spouse must be presented. If the couple resides outside the United States, they must provide a Transcript of Freedom to Marry in English. If you have any questions about this form, please contact your parish priest.

In cases involving the marriage of Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians, the latter must have been baptized, in water, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Church cannot bless the marriage of an Orthodox Christian to a non-Christian.

The Sponsor (Koumbaro or Koumbara) must be an Orthodox Christian and a member of an Orthodox parish. If married, they must have been married in an Orthodox Church. The Sponsor must provide a letter from his or her parish priest stating that they are a member in good standing in their parish.

Non-Orthodox persons may be members of the wedding party, but they may not be a Sponsor or exchange the rings or crowns.

Days When Marriage Is Not Permitted

September 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross
December 13-25, Nativity
January 5-6, Feast of Theophany
Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha
Ascension of Our Lord (40 Days after Pascha)
Pentecost (50 Days after Pascha)
August 1-15, Dormition of Our Holy Mother
August 29, Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Please be aware that we may not be able to accommodate your requested date(s) for other reasons as well.

Required Information and Premarital Seminar

The couple must provide the information necessary to complete the Marriage Information Form included below at least three months before the date of the wedding. Once we have the information, we will prepare a form for you to sign and send back to us.

The couple must also attend a premarital seminar sponsored by the Metropolis of Atlanta at least 30 days prior to their wedding date. To register for a seminar, please visit the webpage <https://atlmetsopolis.org/family-life>.

Upon completion of the seminar, you will receive a certificate. This certificate must be provided to us or we cannot apply to the office of the bishop for permission to celebrate the marriage sacrament. This means the premarital seminar should be completed at least one month before the proposed date of the marriage and the certificate sent to us as soon as possible.

Fees

The following fees may apply:

Church Usage - \$1,500
Wedding Coordinator - \$200
Chanter - \$100

A deposit of one-half the sacramental donation (\$750) must be received at least three months before the date of the wedding in order for us to reserve the church and date. This deposit becomes nonrefundable after thirty days or two months before the wedding, whichever is later. The remaining fees are due two weeks before the wedding.

Items Needed for the Wedding Service

A silver tray for the crowns
Two crowns with a ribbon
Rings for both the Bride and Groom
Two White Candles
The Civil Marriage License
Wine Goblet

Rehearsal

One hour is allowed for the rehearsal and it must occur in the church during the business week of Monday through Friday between the hours of 11:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Music

We require the use of our own chanter. Instruments are not permitted in the church.

Photography

Flash photography is not permitted during the service.

General Information

Meetings for florists, photographers, etc. must be scheduled with the Wedding Coordinator and must occur during the business week of Monday through Friday between the hours of 11:00 am and 3:00 pm.

The church will be open two hours before the service. Please notify the Wedding Coordinator if you wish to take pictures inside the church following the service. Flowers and/or other decorations must be removed immediately following the service.

Should you wish to invite Father to the reception, please send an invitation in advance to the church office.

Flower petals and/or rice are not permitted in or outside the church.

The wedding cannot be held at any location other than Sts. Markella and Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.

Marriage Information Form

Anticipated Date of Wedding and Time _____
Month Day Year

Rehearsal Date and Time _____
Month Day Year

GROOM

Name _____

Residence _____

City State Zip

Telephone _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____

Religion Baptized _____

Date join Orthodox Church by Chrismation _____

Occupation _____

Father's Name _____

Father's Country of Birth _____

Father's Religion _____

Mother's Name _____

Mother's Country of Birth _____

Mother's Religion _____

Ever been married? _____ How many times? _____
If "Yes", fill out Supplementary Marriage Form

Age arrived in US? _____

Related to Bride? _____

BRIDE

Name _____

Residence _____

City State Zip

Telephone _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____

Religion Baptized _____

Date join Orthodox Church by Chrismation _____

Occupation _____

Father's Name _____

Father's Country of Birth _____

Father's Religion _____

Mother's Name _____

Mother's Country of Birth _____

Mother's Religion _____

Ever been married? _____ How many times? _____
If "Yes", fill out Supplementary Marriage Form

Age arrived in US? _____

Related to Groom? _____

Koumbaro(a) Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Parish they attend _____ City/State _____

Witness Name _____

Address to Mail Wedding Certificate to: _____

Supplementary Marriage Form

Name of Applicant for Wedding License

How many times Married? _____

Divorced Spouse(s) Name(s):

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Divorced Spouse(s) Religion:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Date of Marriage:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Place of Marriage:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Performed by whom:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Dissolved by Death:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Civil Divorce:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Ecclesiastical Decree:

1st _____

2nd _____

Name of Applicant for Wedding License

How many times Married? _____

Divorced Spouse(s) Name(s):

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Divorced Spouse(s) Religion:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Date of Marriage:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Place of Marriage:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Performed by whom:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Dissolved by Death:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Civil Divorce:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Ecclesiastical Decree:

1st _____

2nd _____