

Saint Sophia Cathedral

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SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE PARISH REQUIREMENTS, OBLIGATIONS, SERVICES AND FEES

We are delighted that you have chosen Saint Sophia Cathedral to celebrate your Marriage. May the Lord bless you with His Grace and guide you through your sacred commitment. We look forward to welcoming you and assisting you to prepare this most important celebration meaningful and memorable. Please contact our Office Manager/Sacraments Director, who will be directing you through the preparation of the sacrament and is responsible for: booking your sacrament date and time; communicating with the Priest, Sacrament Coordinator, and Events Director; and processing your sacrament documents.

REQUIREMENTS

In order for a person to participate in a sacrament, he/she must be a parishioner in good standing. Any person eighteen years of age or older, who was baptized according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, or was received into the Church through Chrismation, lives according to the faith and canons of the Church, abides by the Regulations and By-Laws of the Parish, and has met his/her stewardship financial obligations to the Parish is a Parishioner/Steward in Good Standing.

SACRAMENT OBLIGATIONS OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM

SAINT SOPHIA STEWARDS -Participating in a sacrament with no obligation of service fees is a privilege of being a Steward. No service fee if the bride and/or groom has been a Saint Sophia steward in good standing and met his/her financial obligation for at least two years preceding the sacrament. No service fee for a bride and/or groom getting married to a Saint Sophia steward, as we welcome him/her to our Saint Sophia family and look forward to the couple's stewardship participation. No service fee for a son or a daughter 24 years of age and under, if the parents have been Saint Sophia stewards for a minimum of five years. We look forward to the couple's stewardship participation. Stewards in good standing must only pay the Sacrament Coordinator Fee \$150 and Organist Fee \$175, plus a \$1,000 refundable security deposit (\$1325 Total)

NON SAINT SOPHIA STEWARDS- A Saint Sophia Cathedral Service Fee of \$4,000 plus a \$1,000 refundable security deposit per couple for a total of \$5,000 is required and payable in full 120 days prior to the sacrament. There is an additional \$500 fee for weddings scheduled on a holiday weekend: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Days, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. This fee includes the use of the Cathedral for no more than 2 hours (provided the wedding of the BRIDE and GROOM begins on time). The 2 hours begin ½ hour prior to the scheduled ceremony time of the BRIDE and GROOM through their wedding ceremony and ends no later than 1-½ hours after the scheduled wedding time. Saint Sophia Stewards: Please contact St. Sophia office. All couples: If payment in full is not made four (4) months prior to your wedding, your ceremony will be cancelled and removed from the Cathedral calendar.

Refundable \$1,000 Security Deposit

The refundable Security Deposit will be held on file. After the sacrament date, the Sacrament Coordinator will inspect the Cathedral and surrounding grounds; and if there are no damages caused to the property AND if all Cathedral wedding policies and practices* are followed by the BRIDE and GROOM, their families, all guests, and all their vendors, the Security Deposit will be returned to the BRIDE and GROOM within seven (7) business days.

*Examples of policy and practice violations include but are not limited to punctuality (such as late arrival of BRIDE and GROOM and/or wedding party resulting in late start, purposely delaying start of ceremony for any other reason), uncooperative vendors, any violation of the Cathedral's sacred space, failure to clearly disclose and communicate all ceremony details within a reasonable time prior to ceremony date, failure of any person associated with the wedding ceremony to follow the instructions and requests of any clergy or Saint Sophia Cathedral staff. In the event that there are damages and these damages exceed the amount of the Security Deposit, the BRIDE and GROOM will be billed at the prevailing rate(s) of repair(s) and replacement.

Cancellation: If cancellation occurs within fifteen (15) days after booking the wedding, Saint Sophia Cathedral shall withhold fifty (50%) percent of the wedding fee. If the wedding is cancelled at any other time after the 15-day period, all fees paid are non-refundable. Should BRIDE and/or GROOM cancel the wedding, Saint Sophia Cathedral will permanently remove the date from the calendar.

SACRAMENT OBLIGATIONS OF THE KOUMBARO/KOUMBARA (Greek Orthodox Weddings Only)

SAINT SOPHIA STEWARDS- No service fee. Participating in a sacrament with no obligation of service fees is a privilege of being a Steward.

NON SAINT SOPHIA STEWARDS- A Parishioner in Good Standing letter from another Orthodox Parish or a service fee of \$650 is required and payable 120 days prior to the sacrament. This fee may be applied to Sacraments by selecting the Pay Cathedral Service Fee link. If you wish to become a Saint Sophia Steward and continue participating in the life of the Church, you have the choice of applying this fee to Stewardship by selecting the Pay Stewardship link.