SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL

1324 South Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006
Phone: 323-737-2424 Email: admin@saintsophia.org and office@saintsophia.org

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. The minimum suggested annual financial obligation for our Parish is $1,200

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 parents have been Saint Sophia Stewards in good standing and met their financial obligations for the year that the wedding takes place with a suggested minimum annual donation of $1,200. A parishioner in Good Standing is one that has an active and up to date Stewardship Pledge Card on file for the current and previous calendar year. Stewards in good standing must only pay the Facilities Fees. Please contact the Saint Sophia Office for details.

NON-SAINT SOPHIA STEWARDS: A Saint Sophia Cathedral service fee of $6000 plus a $2000 refundable security deposit per couple for a total of $8,000 **is** required and payable in full 120 days prior to the sacrament. Saint Sophia will not schedule your wedding date until the $2000 refundable security deposit has been received in full.

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 the other Orthodox Parish and a service fee of $1200 is required and payable 120 days prior to the sacrament.

SACRAMENT COORDINATOR SERVICES AND PARKING INFORMATION

SACRAMENT COORDINATOR SERVICES: The Sacrament Coordinator sets up the Cathedral for operation, answers questions regarding Sacrament of Marriage guidelines and Cathedral policies and assists the priest during the sacrament.

PARKING: The Cathedral provides 2 parking attendants for up to 150 guests. If you have over 150 guests, additional parking attendants are required at a service fee. Please contact the Events Director for arrangements.

FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY SACRAMENT COORDINATOR, CANTOR, ORGANIST AND VOCALIST, AND ADDITIONAL SACRAMENT INFORMATION, PLEASE REVIEW CATHEDRAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

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SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
ECCLESIASTICAL REQUIREMENTS

THE SACRAMENT

For the union of a man and a woman to be valid by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony must be authorized by the Metropolitan and celebrated according to the liturgical tradition of the Church by a priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. A marriage celebrated by a priest of another Orthodox jurisdiction in communion with a Greek Orthodox priest is also valid by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. A request by the other Orthodox jurisdiction priest must be made to the Dean of Saint Sophia Cathedral requesting permission to celebrate the sacrament.

Marriages can be celebrated between Orthodox Christians, and between Orthodox Christians and other Christians, who have been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity within a denomination accepted by the Greek Orthodox Church. Marriages cannot be celebrated between Orthodox Christians and non-Christians, between relatives by blood or marriage, and on certain dates. For a list of dates, please contact our office manager.

The Koumbaro/Koumbara (Sponsor), who is an active participant in the sacrament, must be an Orthodox Christian, and if married, must have been married in the Orthodox Church. Bridesmaids and ushers, who are not active participants in the sacrament, are not required to be Orthodox Christians.

PLANNING FOR THE SACRAMENT

ECCLESIASTICAL MARRIAGE LICENSE

- The Bride and Groom must submit the required documents to apply for an Ecclesiastical Marriage License. This license is issued by the Metropolis Department of Registry authorizing the priest to perform the sacrament.

THE BRIDE AND GROOM MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS, AS APPLICABLE: (GREEK ORTHODOX WEDDINGS ONLY)

- Baptismal Orthodox Certificates
- Baptismal Confirmation Letter, if she/he is from a non-Orthodox Christian Church, confirming her/his baptism in the Holy Trinity and attesting to eligibility for marriage
- Parishioner in Good Standing Letter, if she/he is from another Greek Orthodox parish, attesting to eligibility for marriage
- Certificate of Eligibility for Marriage from the Metropolitan of the town or province, if she/he came from Greece or another country after her/his 18th birthday
- Letter of Consent from parents, if Bride is under 18 years of age and Groom is under 21
- Civil Decree of Divorce, if she/he was previously married
- Ecclesiastical Decree of Divorce, if she/he was formerly married in the Orthodox Church
- Death Certificate of Deceased Spouse, if she/he is widowed

THE KOUMBARO/KOUMBARA (SPONSOR) MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS, AS APPLICABLE:

- Baptismal Orthodox Certificate
- Letter of Good Standing from an Orthodox Church

CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE

Less than 90 days prior to the sacrament, the Bride and Groom must submit an application for a Civil Marriage License to the Registrar Recorder clerk of the county in which either she or he resides. The license is to be submitted to the Sacrament Coordinator at the wedding rehearsal. As dictated by state law, the sacrament cannot be performed without a CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE.

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REQUIRED SACRAMENT ITEMS (GREEK ORTHODOX WEDDING ONLY)

- CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE
- A SET OF STEFANA (crowns)
- 2 WEDDING BANDS
- 2 WHITE CANDLES
- 1 POUND KOUFETA (White Jordan almonds)
- 1 SILVER TONED TRAY (Average size 12″x16″)
- SACRAMENT PROGRAMS with an explanation of The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (Optional)
- The above items are to be submitted to the Sacrament Coordinator at the wedding rehearsal.