

WEDDING POLICY STATEMENT ON THE USE OF THE CHURCH FOR WEDDINGS

**St. Mary of the Lake Church
White Bear Lake, Minnesota**

In order for all parties to be well informed and that your wedding day goes smoothly, St. Mary's has issued the following guidelines to all couples on the use of the Church:

1. You will have four hours when the Church will be reserved solely for your wedding. *Nothing* else will be scheduled during this time. The time frame scheduled for weddings is:

Wedding Time

2:30 PM

Reserved Church Time

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Weddings scheduled for a different time will have the four-hour period determined by the time of the wedding. **Due to the high level of activity at our church, there can be no exceptions. The Church must remain available for other activities that can and do come up unexpectedly.** During this four-hour period, your flowers may be set up, pictures taken and the ceremony celebrated.

2. **Regarding florists:**

Please remind your florist that glitter may not be used, since we don't have maintenance to clean up after the ceremony (use of glitter forfeits the damage deposit). If your florist needs to pick up anything after the wedding, they must do so immediately after the wedding. Nothing is to remain in the Church after the wedding, once again, due to the high amount of activity that goes on in our Church. If your florist feels that they need more time to set up flowers, then you might suggest to them that they bring an assistant. **Please be sure to inform your florist of this well in advance so that they may make adequate preparations.**

3. **Regarding photographers/videographers:**

Please inform your photographer of the time frame that you have for the Church. If the photographer thinks he/she needs more time, you could plan to go to their studio, outside of church, or in town, or to your home, etc., for any extra pictures. During the ceremony the placement for photographers is off to the east side of the sanctuary (your wedding coordinator will point this out). There is to be no roaming around the Church. The sanctuary area (the area that is not carpeted) is off bounds for photographers.

4. **Miscellaneous:** We ask that you be aware of the following:

- St. Mary's Church building is to be observed as a smoke-free environment.
- There is to be no use of drugs or alcoholic beverages on the parish grounds. **Drinking or drug use forfeits the refund and could result in your wedding being postponed.**
- A telephone is available in the kitchen for necessary outgoing local calls.
- Your personal items are your responsibility and the Church is not responsible for lost or stolen items during or after the wedding ceremony.
- Wedding party members and guests are asked to refrain from throwing flower petals, rice, birdseed, confetti, or releasing balloons (state law).

Thank you for your cooperation with these items; and, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Pastor or Liturgist with any concerns. We all wish you a very joyful, prayerful wedding ceremony and a life that is full of God's blessings upon you and your families.