

Our Lady of Loreto Catholic Parish Guidelines for Wedding Photographers and Videographers

Couples marrying at Our Lady of Loreto often have questions about the photographic guidelines at our parish. These guidelines are relatively simple and easily fit within the artistic needs of most professional photographers and/or videographers.

Please provide this sheet, or a copy, to your photographer and/or videographer.

Time Restrictions: Couples may take photographs in the church beginning one (1) hour prior to the start of the nuptial liturgy. This session should end 30 minutes prior to the start of the liturgy. This allows time for the couple and their guests to attend to last minute details and especially to enter into prayer.

Following the nuptial liturgy, pictures must be completed and the wedding party should exit the building by 1:00pm (for an 11:00am wedding), 4:00pm (for a 2:00pm wedding), and 9:00pm (for a 7:00pm wedding).

Flash Photography: Commercial flash units are extremely bright and distracting. Flash is not permitted during the ceremony. (We realize that guests may use digital cameras with flash, a much less intrusive level of light, and we trust that they will use restraint.) Once the priest or deacon has entered the sanctuary, the liturgy is in progress and commercial flashes must be turned off.

Entrance and Exit Processions: Pictures of the procession may be taken from the aisle seat of any pew (You may wish to reserve a space for this – please speak with the wedding coordinator the day of the wedding.) but the photographer may not step into the center aisle to take photos. Those processing into the church are not to stop in the aisle and pose for pictures as they enter. Photos of the couple and the wedding party exiting may be taken from the center aisle at the back or midway point provided this does not stop the exit procession.

Video Photography: Video may be hand-held or tri-pod mounted. (Rolling carts are not permitted due to distraction.) Tri-pods may not be placed in aisles, but there are several places they can be placed with excellent results. (A list of these locations can be provided by the wedding coordinator.)

Location of Photographer(s): Our primary goal in placing restrictions on photography is to ensure that the photographer does not detract from the sacramental nature of the nuptial liturgy. He/She should be as unobtrusive as possible.

With that in mind, during the liturgy (from seating of grandparents through the exit procession) photographers may not be in the space between the front modesty rail and the altar steps, nor on the steps or in the sanctuary space. In crossing from one side of the church to the other, he/she must use the cross aisle (the aisle midway back in the church) or the back aisle. At no time may the photographer come between the priest and the couple, nor between the assembly (congregation) and the couple or priest. There are many excellent places for taking photographs, including the upstairs balconies. Please ask the wedding coordinator for assistance in locating suitable areas if needed.

Following the Ceremony: The couple retires to the calming (cry) room until the guests exit the church proper. (This usually takes 5-10 minutes.) At that time, the couple is escorted back into the church through an internal door so you can begin photos. Please take any photos of the priest or deacon with the couple first, as other church obligations may limit his time. You may pose pictures on the stairs and in the front floor spaces and aisles during this time. We ask that you maintain a reverent atmosphere as parishioners will be entering to pray prior to afternoon Mass. Completing your photography within the time constraints is essential as preparations for the afternoon Mass or set-up for a second nuptial liturgy will begin at their scheduled time(s).

We have great respect for the artistic nature of photography and videography and the need of the couple to retain a record of this joyous occasion. With that in mind, we believe that the restrictions we place on photographs and videos are in keeping with the needs of both the couple and the sanctity of our beliefs and our worship space. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Fr. David Bluejacket
Pastor

Tim Rohl
Pastoral Associate
for Liturgy and Music