



Church of the LITTLE FLOWER

TOGETHER, WORSHIPPING THE LORD, FORMING DISCIPLES, SERVING IN THE NAME OF JESUS

PARISH MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

We have read, understand and agree to comply with the Parish Marriage/Wedding Guidelines.

We know that our marriage date is tentative until we fulfill the entire necessary paperwork (i.e. sacramental records, letter of permission, etc.), attend Transformed in Love or Camino del Matrimonio, as well as participating in the Compatibility Inventory, i.e. Fully Engaged.

When our canonical freedom to marry has been established, the necessary documentation and our participation in the preparation program completed, the Pastor will determine final approval.

The Parish reserves the right to postpone or cancel this wedding date for canonical reasons at any time. In such a case, we agree to release Church of the Little Flower from all expenses, losses or harm incurred by us.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date



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WEDDING DRESS GUIDELINES BRIDES AND BRIDESMAIDS

Your wedding day is a very special one and hopefully, will be remembered for many years to come with happy memories. Bride and Bridesmaids have to remember, however, that the wedding is not just a time to party but an important Sacrament, and what is appropriate for the Church. Any dress that shows cleavage, low cut, back-less gowns or mini-skirts even though perhaps beautiful and fashionable for certain affairs, may not be worn in Church. If a bride or a bridesmaid insists on wearing a dress that may be deemed inappropriate by the priest, for a religious ceremony, she will be asked to put on a shawl, which we will provide. In order to avoid embarrassment, please abide by this rule. If a bride has any questions regarding proper dress, there usually is a problem. Brides in this case, should check with Mr. del Sol before purchasing any dresses. Sadly, in the case of the rest of the bridal party, Maid of Honor and bridesmaids it will forfeit their participation in the wedding ceremony and sit in the back of the church. These guidelines apply to readers and any other person selected to participate in the wedding ceremony. They too must wear appropriate attire for Church, especially covered shoulders.

I have read and clearly understand Church of the Little Flower Wedding Dress Guidelines. May bridesmaids and I will abide by the same.

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date



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TIMELINESS FOR WEDDINGS NO BRIDE IS EVER LATE

Due to the scheduling of weddings and other events at our church, it is extremely important that weddings begin on time. You should plan for all the participants to arrive at least 30 minutes early in order for the ceremony to begin at the appointed time.

If the entrance procession starts late, the wedding rite will be celebrated without the various components that some bride/groom select, (i.e. arras, mantilla, flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary).

A considerable delay will also delete the time allotted for photographs after the wedding ceremony.

Beginning on time will allow the priest/deacon to celebrate the ceremony with solemnity and decorum without having to rush to end on time.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date



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PHOTOGRAPHY AGREEMENT

We agree and understand the requirements set forth by Church of the Little Flower regarding the taking of photographs during our wedding ceremony. Additionally, we further understand that any failure, either on our part or those persons contracted by us, to follow these requirements will cause the presider/celebrant to stop the ceremony until the photographer complies with the parish policy. Guests may not take pictures during the ceremony, this includes the entrance, liturgy/Mass, and recessional.

The photographers must be dressed appropriately. The flash photographer may take pictures as the bride and her wedding party enter and leave the main aisle by standing by the back pews (near the main entrance of the church building) or in the middle of the church by the baptismal font, not in the center of the aisle and certainly not up front near the sanctuary. During the ceremony, the photographer may take pictures with a remote or long lens camera from the same two places but may not use flash. The photographer shoots the event, and does not stop and pose. Once the ceremony begins, the photographer may step into the main aisle at the back and remain there for the entire ceremony, photographers may not walk anywhere else and especially never walk up and down the main aisle. The bride has a list of pictures (attached to this agreement) to be taken following the ceremony so that all the pictures may be done quickly and within the time reserved for the wedding party. Pictures must be taken in a quiet and respectful manner. The maid of honor will conduct the picture session time utilizing the list for picture taking. The photographer must stop the work if the family members should become too loud or unruly. Family and guests may not take any photographs during any portion of the ceremony. In order to maintain a sense of the sacred within the church building, group photographs proceed in a quiet and reverent manner and can only begin when all guests have quietly left the church building. Ushers will escort the guests out the church and return to check for any programs, tissues, or any other item left behind by the wedding guests. Pictures are to be completed quickly and within the hour and fifteen minutes allowed for both the ceremony and pictures.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date

Photographer (Please attach business card)

Date



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PICTURE TAKING

The wedding ceremony has a total of one hour and fifteen minutes, including pictures. Therefore, this list is essential for a well-planned ceremony. Please make sure that it is given to your photographer. The photographer may not commence taking photos until the guests have been escorted outside and the church is in silence. Ushers assist with the guests as they exit the church (and later remove any wedding programs, items, tissues, etc.). The maid of honor directs the picture taking session using this outline.

The following is the order in which pictures are to be taken after the wedding ceremony:

1. Bride and Groom with ushers and ring bearer.
2. Bride and Groom with ushers, bridesmaids, ring bearer and flower girl
3. Bride and Groom with bridesmaids and flower girl
4. Bride's immediate family with the newlyweds
5. Groom's immediate family with the newlyweds
6. Family picture (Bride's side)
7. Family picture (Groom's side)
8. Newlyweds
9. Bride alone

We have clearly read the Picture Taking information above. We understand and will follow these very helpful guidelines.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date

Photographer

Date



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VIDEOGRAPHER AGREEMENT

We understand and are in complete agreement with the requirements set forth by Church of the Little Flower regarding the filming of videography during our wedding ceremony. Additionally, we further understand that any failure, either on our part or those persons contracted by us, to follow these requirements may cause the celebrant to stop the ceremony until the videographer complies with the parish policy. No guest may take pictures or videography during the ceremony, the entrance, Mass and recessional.

The videographer must be dressed appropriately. The videographer may not use any type of strobe, umbrella, or any other additional lights. The videographer may only enter the church building from the side door alongside Comber Hall, thus allowing easy entrance to the side door of the sanctuary. There he/she will stand stationary with the video camera on a tripod alongside the bottom steps of the Altar about 20 feet behind the presider's chair. Once there, the videographer will record the entire ceremony from this one spot and not move until the end of Mass. At the end of the ceremony, the videographer will exit the church using the same door he/she entered, proceed to the main center entrance to the church and stand alongside the photographer at the iron rod gates. The videographer is to use little to no movements since he/she is on the main sanctuary of the church, this is a holy sacred place where Christ Himself resides in the tabernacle. We would not want our guests to think that the videographer is the "main celebrant". In order to maintain a sense of the sacred within the church building; respect is appreciated and expected. Family and guests may not take any photography or videography during the ceremony.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date

Photographer (Please attach business card)

Date



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FLORIST AGREEMENT

We agree and understand the requirements set forth by Church of the Little Flower regarding the floral arrangements and decorations for the wedding ceremony. Additionally, we further understand that any failure, either on our part or those persons contracted by us, to follow these requirements may cause the celebrant to delay the ceremony until the florist complies with the parish policy or be asked to leave before or during the service. Any florist that does not comply with these regulations will not be allowed to decorate other weddings at Church of the Little Flower in the future.

The florist must be neatly and properly dressed while working in the church and must arrive 30 minutes before the wedding begins in order to finish decorating the church on time. The florist must not interfere with a previous ceremony and must dispose of all leftover materials and trash before leaving the church. The florist must remove all materials as soon as the ceremony is over. It is imperative that the florist does not park in front of the church or blocks the driveway. The florist must park on the left side of the church where there is an entrance designated for delivery. Please do not arrive so early that it interferes with the previous event in the church.

It is the custom of the Catholic Church that flowers are not used during Lent. Therefore, flowers are not permitted on the altar, nor in the aisles of the church. The bride, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and parents may wear or carry flowers during Lent.

The florist may place bouquets on either side of the altar, or on both sides of the altar rail or alongside the tabernacle where the flower stands are located. The florist will check with the Wedding Coordinator before placing any flowers anywhere on the sanctuary. No other decorations or additions are allowed on the altar. For safety reasons and cleanliness, we do not allow standing arrangements with candles for the center aisles, trees or potted plants. You may place flowers at the end of the pews; please be sure not to use any material or gadgets that may harm or damage the pews. Only string, thin rope or flower clips may be used to attach flower arrangements to the pews. Linking the pews together with ropes, ribbons, tulle or anything else that prevents easy entry/exit to the pews is not allowed. No other decorations are permitted on the pews and if you bring anything else, we will not allow the florist to put it up. In order to secure the safety of your guests, we cannot permit any type of aisle runners, carpets or paper rugs. The safety of your guests is important, and no one wants a 911 call during your wedding ceremony.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date

Florist (Please attach business card)

Date

2711 Indian Mound Trail • Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 446-9950 • www.cotlf.org



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NO FLOWERS DURING LENT

We have been informed and clearly understand the guidelines stipulated by Church of the Little Flower with regard to the policy of no flowers allowed during Lent.

- We agree not to place any flowers on the altar/sanctuary or aisles of the church during the wedding ceremony.
- We agree not to place any flowers on the pews.
- We understand that the bride and bridesmaids may carry flowers.
- The groom and groomsmen, and if necessary, the parents, may wear boutonnieres.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date

Florist

Date



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TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

We have contracted with _____ (limousine service). While it is the custom of many limousine companies to serve the traditional champagne as the couple leaves the church and heads on to their wedding reception; we wish to act with a great deal of responsibility, etiquette, and civic duty. We promise not to have champagne glasses, bottles, and especially the cork (plastic or otherwise) on the premises of Church of the Little Flower. We realize that these present a potential legal issue for which the Church of the Little Flower is not responsible. A loose cork on the ground or in the parking areas near the church building could cause someone to fall and be injured. Therefore, if the Limousine Company pops a cork, the company is responsible for retrieving it and the Church of the Little Flower is in no way responsible for any injury caused by such cork should the Limousine Company fail to retrieve it.

While a horse and carriage may seem elegant and graceful in movies or in other cultures and countries, it is not practical and distracts from the sacrament. Therefore, couples are encouraged to hire the traditional wedding limo or car; horse and carriage is not permitted.

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date

Limousine Company (Please attach business card)

Date



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IMPORTANT COMPATIBILITY INVENTORY INFORMATION

Church of the Little Flower utilizes a Compatibility Inventory as an aid for your marriage preparation. It can help couples understand and communicate openly about many topics associated with relationships. It is a questionnaire designed to help couples grow further in their relationship. The following are helpful procedures in completing the Compatibility Inventory.

1. Please contact the Church Wedding Coordinator, Mr. Juan del Sol, to set up a convenient date and time to complete the questionnaire.
2. Once the couple has completed the questionnaire, Mr. del Sol will assign a trained parish facilitator/mentor couple.
3. Couples entering the Sacrament of Matrimony will call and set up a follow-up meeting with their assigned trained parish facilitator/mentor couple. You will be invited to their home, where you will review important points related to the responses you provided on the questionnaire.
4. Eventually, the trained parish facilitator/mentor couple will return your results to Mr. del Sol.
5. Please be sure to follow-up with Mr. del Sol to secure that the Compatibility Inventory results have been returned to his office.
6. The Compatibility Inventory and the Pre-Marriage Retreat must be completed within three months after the initial Wedding Application has been submitted to the Parish.

We have read, understand and will comply with the Compatibility Inventory and Pre-Marriage Retreat (i.e. Engaged Encounter OR Pre-Cana OR Camino).

Groom's Signature

Date

Bride's Signature

Date

Church Wedding Coordinator

Date



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note that the Ring Boy and Flower Girl must be at least five (5) years old. Younger children do not know the meaning of a Sacrament nor do they understand what is expected of them. It makes the child very nervous to walk down the aisle by himself or herself and it is wrong to make a child do something he or she does not really wish to do.

DO NOT MARRY CIVILLY BEFORE THE CHURCH WEDDING

Please **DO NOT** marry civilly before the church wedding. If you have an immigration issue and must get married civilly, you must first speak to Mr. Juan del Sol.

NOT PERMITTED

Rice, bubbles, birdseeds, confetti, flower petals, sparklers, and/or anything of the like are not permitted anywhere on Church property.

IMPORTANT POINT ON WEDDING TRADITIONS

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/the-unity-candle/>



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WEDDING CEREMONY OUTLINE

Entrance Procession

Welcome by the Presider

Old Testament Reading

Responsorial Psalm
(Musical Arrangement)

New Testament Reading

Gospel & Homily

Consent & Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Eucharist

Final Blessing

Exit Procession

PLEASE NOTE THAT OFTEN TIMES COUPLES HAVE CULTURAL AND FAMILIAL CUSTOMS; THESE WILL NEED TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE WEDDING COORDINATOR WHO WILL PROVIDE PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON HOW THESE CUSTOMS MAY BE INCLUDED AT THE WEDDING RECEPTION, THUS NOT PROLONGING THE WEDDING CEREMONY/LITURGY.

THANK YOU.