

Wedding Procedure and Guidelines

Shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage

Lisa, Wedding Liturgy Coordinator:
seaportshrineweddings@gmail.com

Kathleen, Music Coordinator:
kathleen_crozier@verizon.net

Mailing address for wedding documents:

Shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage
Attn: Wedding Coordinator
P.O. Box 52198
Boston, MA 02205

General Information

- It is recommended that you make contact with Lisa the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator at the very beginning of your engagement, at least **10 months** prior to the wedding date. Some of the necessary paperwork and steps can take a considerable amount of time to complete.
- Weddings generally take place at the Shrine on Saturday at 2:00 or 4:30 pm. Other days and times may be arranged upon request.
- Weddings are reserved on a first come first serve basis which is why it is important to make your inquiry as soon as possible.
- The Shrine holds 250 people.
- A tour of the Shrine can be arranged upon request.
- Nothing may be thrown on the Shrine property, inside or outside (rice, flowers, flower pedals, etc.)
- Runners are not permitted in the church aisle.
- Seasonal liturgical decor already in place, including seasonal flowers, cannot be removed for wedding liturgies. Be aware of the Church's liturgical seasons when selecting the date for your wedding.
- Please ask your florist to contact the Shrine to arrange floral deliveries.
- Questions about the procedure and necessary paperwork can be answered by Lisa, the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator when an inquiry is made.

Steps

1. Initial Inquiry with Lisa, the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator.

A fillable PDF Wedding Intake Form is available on the Shrine Website on the Weddings page.

Wedding inquiries should be made via email

(seaportshrineweddings@gmail.com) **at least 10 months prior** to the wedding date and should include the following information (On intake form):

- a. Name of the bride and groom.
- b. Religion of the bride and groom.
- c. Contact information: email, phone.
- d. Desired time and date for the wedding.
- e. Indication of whether you plan to have a wedding ceremony or a Nuptial Mass (It is okay if you have not yet decided.)
- f. Indication if you plan to have a priest or deacon from outside of the Shrine staff for the wedding, or if you will be requesting a priest or deacon from the Shrine staff for the wedding.

2. Contact the priest or deacon who will be celebrating your wedding to begin the necessary paperwork and Pre-Cana classes. The Shrine does not currently offer Pre-Cana courses, but a schedule for marriage preparation programs offered through the Archdiocese of Boston can be found on its [website](#).

- a. Contact information for a priest or deacon from the Shrine Staff will be provided to you by Lisa the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator.
- b. The priest or deacon will set up appointments with you over a period of time, usually meeting with you three to five times prior to your wedding.

3. After the initial inquiry, you will be able to reserve the date and time of your wedding with Lisa, the Wedding Liturgy Coordinator. Deposit checks can be mailed to the Shrine at the address provided above.

4. Complete all necessary paperwork and marriage preparation classes (Pre-Cana).

- a. All paperwork must be in order and on file at the Shrine **2 months prior to the wedding date.**
 - b. If a priest or deacon outside of the Shrine staff has helped you to prepare your paperwork, he should have it mailed to the Shrine when it is completed. All documents should be mailed together. Please notify the priest who is helping you prepare for your wedding of this policy.
5. Contact the Shrine Music Coordinator, Kathleen.
- a. Contact the Wedding Music Coordinator as soon as possible (preferably six to nine months in advance) by emailing Kathleen at kathleen_crozier@verizon.net.
 - b. Arrange with Kathleen to attend a wedding music planning session which is held at the Shrine on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the choir loft to help with the selection of appropriate music.

Necessary Paperwork

Must be on record at the Shrine 2 months prior to wedding date.

Questions about necessary paperwork can be answered by Lisa, or by the priest/deacon who is helping you to prepare for your wedding.

- Certified Baptismal certificates (from the parish where you were baptized) for both bride and groom **or** a Permission for Mixed Marriage Form (for couples who are not both Catholic)
- Marriage Preparation Certificate, which will be provided to you after completing a marriage preparation program. (Pre-Cana)
- Archdiocesan paperwork; Preliminary Interrogatory, other documents determined necessary by the priest or deacon helping you prepare for your wedding.
- Marriage License from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - a. Must be presented at the time of your rehearsal.
 - b. A Marriage License is valid for 60 days after being issued in the State of Massachusetts. (Boston.gov)
- Letter of Good Standing for priest or deacon (For priest or deacon outside of the Archdiocese of Boston)

Photography

In order to maintain the reverent character appropriate to the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, we ask that you explain these policies to your photographer and videographer:

- Flash is not to be used once the liturgy begins. Flash photos may be taken before and after the liturgy.
- The photographer may photograph the starting procession from the front of the church, but after the Bride enters, all photos and video must be taken from the choir loft or from the side aisles.
- Photos and video taken from the choir loft should be taken in such a way that will not disrupt the musicians. Photographers should not enter the work space of the organist or any other musicians.

Fees

- Wedding Stipend: \$1500
 - For use of the Shrine, due in full at the time of your rehearsal, made payable to: The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage.
- Non-refundable deposit: \$500
 - Counting toward wedding stipend and due at time of the reservation.
- Wedding Liturgy Coordinator fee: \$300, made payable to Lisa Soegaard.
- Music fees are determined directly with Kathleen the Music Coordinator.

Helpful Links

[Archdiocese of Boston Policy on Place of Marriage](#)
[Schedule of Marriage Preparation Programs/Pre-Cana](#)
[Archdiocese of Boston Marriage Preparation FAQ's](#)

[How to Get Married in Boston](#)