

Sacrament of Matrimony

Prohibitions:

- Marriage is prohibited between ascending and descending blood relatives, e.g., between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, in direct line.
- Marriage is prohibited between collateral blood relatives to the Fourth Degree, e.g., between siblings and first cousins.
- Marriage is prohibited between relatives by marriage to the Fourth Degree, e.g., between two brothers and two sisters, or a brother and his sister to a sister and her brother.
- Marriage is prohibited between spiritual relatives to the Fourth Degree, e.g., Godchildren with their Godparents or with their Godparent's children.
- Marriage is prohibited between those of the same sex or between more than two persons.

When Marriages may not occur:

The celebration of the marriage is prohibited on:

- Every Wednesday and Friday
- Great Feasts throughout the year: Feast of the Holy Cross (September 14), The Beheading of the Forerunner (August 29)
- From November 15 through December 25
- During Great Lent, including Cheese Fare Week
- Pascha and all of Bright Week to Thomas Sunday
- August 1st-15th

Guidelines for Those Desiring to be Married in the Church:

- The Sacrament of Matrimony is traditionally celebrated on Sunday afternoon after the Bride and Groom have been able to attend the Divine Liturgy and received Holy Communion.
- Premarital counseling is required before the Marriage can be celebrated. The couple should first inform the priest of St. George of their engagement and schedule their premarital counseling before choosing a date to be married. Six months notice is sufficient for the couple and the priest to schedule the sufficient premarital counseling sessions.
- A civil license must be obtained by the couple prior to the marriage and shown to the priest. No Marriage will be done without proof of a civil license having been issued.
- All Marriages are performed in the Church Temple. Only with the written approval of the Metropolitan can Marriages take place in any other location and only out of real necessity.
- The couple being married must prior to the marriage receive the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion.
- All divorced persons seeking to be married in the Church must receive the written approval of the Metropolitan prior to being married. The Priest of St. George should be notified sense he must write to the Metropolitan on your behalf to obtain permission.
- One priest is not allowed to officiate at the marriage of many grooms and brides at the same time. Each couple must be married in a separate services.

- The Prayer for the Removal of the Crowns must be performed at the end of the Divine Liturgy following the couple's honeymoon.
- The Church, with the written permission of the Metropolitan, permits the marriage of a person twice previously married, but forbids the marriage of those thrice previously married, i.e., a fourth marriage is forbidden.
- No songs are permitted to be sung during the service except those Orthodox hymns prescribed. All other music is forbidden during the service. Appropriate music sung by the choir may be permitted before and after the service at the discretion of the priest.