

WE HAVE SCHEDULED A WEDDING CEREMONY FOR YOU ON _____,
AT _____. BELOW WE HAVE PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION TO HELP YOU
BEGIN TO PLAN YOUR CEREMONY:

CHURCH AND DIOCESAN INSTRUCTIONS

- The Diocese of Wilmington requires that a couple notify a priest at least twelve months before the wedding. Exceptions to this policy can be made by the local parish pastor. Those under the age of 18 will be discouraged from receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony until they have been evaluated by Catholic Social Services and permission from the Bishop has been obtained. Pregnancy is not a positive determining factor in proceeding with a marriage.
- All couples must be spiritually prepared and free to marry in the Catholic Church. Couples marrying at St. Christopher's must attend a marriage preparation course provided by the Diocese of Wilmington, or the Diocese in which they reside. The Pre-cana Certificate, along with the Spiritual and Personality Assessment, must be delivered to St. Christopher's at least three months prior to the wedding date.
- If either the bride or groom have had a previous marriage ending in divorce, they must speak to the pastor before a wedding date can be scheduled.
- If a priest or deacon not affiliated with St. Christopher's will be presiding at the wedding ceremony, they will be responsible for completing all paperwork and forwarding it to St. Christopher's.
- In an inter-faith marriage, our rule is to have a wedding ceremony, not a Mass. Special circumstances can be discussed with the priest.
- Members of the Catholic faith must obtain a recent copy of their baptismal certificate dated no more than six months prior to their wedding date. You must obtain this certificate from the church in which you were baptized.
- Weddings are celebrated on Saturdays at 2 PM. Approval must be received by the Pastor if another day or time is requested. The ceremony must start and end promptly. Ceremonies are expected to last no more than one hour. All members of the wedding party are to arrive ½ hour before the ceremony. Rehearsals are usually scheduled the evening before the wedding.
- The Marriage License must be obtained in *QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MD*, and delivered to St. Christopher's at least two weeks prior to the wedding date.

- St. Christopher's provides a Wedding Coordinator to assist the wedding party during the rehearsal and the ceremony.
- No alcoholic beverages are to be brought into or consumed in the church or on church property, including the parking lot. Consumption of alcoholic beverages prior to the wedding ceremony could affect the sacramental validity of the marriage.

Church Fees

- The fee for weddings for parishioners is \$500.00. This includes the services of our Wedding Coordinator (required) and the use of the Church for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. This fee is due immediately upon setting the date of the wedding. If not received within 15 days of scheduling the wedding, your date and time will not be saved for you.

Music

- **Arrangements for music must be made by calling our Music Director, Maryalice Davis, at 240-505-8269 or e-mail at maryalice@stchristopherski.org.** Fees for musicians are payable at the time of the rehearsal directly to the musicians. These fees are not included in the Church fees and must be discussed with the music director.

Flowers and Decorations

- Altar flowers are traditionally donated by the wedding couple to the church for the weekend of their wedding. **No flowers, ribbons, candles or other decorations may be attached to the pews using wire, staples, nails, tape, glue or anything which may mar the finish of the pews.**
- Throwing or scattering of flower petals, rice, bird seed, confetti, the use of bubbles, and or balloons are not allowed within the Church building or on the grounds of the Church.

If you have any additional questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you to ensure a joyful beginning to your marriage.