

NECESSARY PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documentation is needed to insure that your wedding will meet the criteria established by the Church and local civil authorities:

State Marriage License: A marriage license issued by the State of Massachusetts must be obtained for the solemnization of the marriage by the Church. The license may be obtained in any town or city in the State of Massachusetts and may be used anywhere in the state. The license may not be used until 24 hours after its issuance and is valid for 90 days. Anyone under 18 years of age requires the consent of parents to obtain a marriage license. This should be delivered to the Church 45 days before the wedding.

Ecclesiastical Marriage License: After receiving their State license, the Bride and Groom must make an appointment to meet with the priest to prepare the application for the Ecclesiastical Marriage License. When possible, the application for the Ecclesiastical marriage may be filled out at the Pre-Marital Seminar. If not, this must be done at least four weeks before the wedding date.

Proof of Baptism: Both parties must be Christians baptized in the Name of the Holy Trinity. One of the parties must be of the Orthodox Christian Faith. Both parties must present to the priest their baptismal certificates when they set up the wedding date. The baptismal certificates may be originals or photocopies. If originals, we will photocopy them and return them to you.

Certificate of No Marital Impediment: Members of other parishes: If either party is from another parish, he/she must present a letter from his/her priest stating that there is no existing impediment to marriage and that he/she is free to marry in our Church. Foreign Citizens: If one or both of the Greek Orthodox parties are not American citizens, a certificate must be obtained from the Metropolis of their origin, attesting to the fact that they are free of any marital impediment and may contract a marriage in the United States. If difficulties are encountered in procuring such documents, the priest should be contacted for further assistance.

Parish Membership: All Greek Orthodox Communicants, male and female, 18 years of age or older must have met their Stewardship obligation to their Church for the current year. In the case of an inter-faith marriage, only the Orthodox party need be a contributing member. Membership must be established before scheduling the wedding date.

Pre-Marital Counseling: All couples must attend the pre-marital counseling classes. During the class, we will discuss the Orthodox understanding of the sacrament of marriage, as well as contemporary issues that all married couples face. These classes are offered regionally throughout the Metropolis of Boston. Please call the office for more information.

Holy Communion: The Sunday before the wedding, it is recommended that the couple attend the Divine Liturgy and (those who are Orthodox) receive Holy Communion.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE KOUMBARO/KOUMBARA

- The Koumbaro/Koumbara must be an Orthodox Christian actively living his/her faith. He/she must be contributing member of his/her parish. If married, they must have been married in the Orthodox Church. If civilly divorced, they must have received an ecclesiastical divorce.
- The Koumbaro/Koumbara is responsible for providing: two crowns connected by a ribbon, decorated candles, traditional silver tray, and white Jordan almonds (κουφέτα)
- On the day of the wedding, the Koumbaro/Koumbara must check in with the officiating priest at least 15 minutes prior to the service in order to:
 - Present his/her church membership card and letter from his/her priest.
 - Present the crowns, etc. to the sexton to be prepared.
 - The Koumbaro/Koumbara is responsible to present the rings to the officiating Priest.
- At the end of the Sacrament, the Koumbaro/Koumbara must sign the Civil and Church license.

ITEMS TO BRING

Coordinate with Koumbaro/Koumbara to buy supplies for the wedding:

- Crowns
- Rings
- silver tray
- Almonds
- 2 small decorated hand candles
- 2 large decorated candles.

VISITING PRIESTS

Guest Eastern Orthodox clergy may participate in a wedding in the Eastern Orthodox Church if an invitation is extended to the by the Parish Priest where the wedding will take place. This must be discussed with the priest before any invitations are extended. Certain protocol must be followed and specific guidelines must be met.

REHEARSAL

When the date for the wedding has been set, the rehearsal date and time should also be set in the appointment book of the community. Usually, rehearsals take place on the day immediately prior to the wedding date. Any exception should be discussed with the parish priest. The rehearsal familiarizes everyone in the wedding party what is expected on the day of the wedding.

Documents needed for Holy Metropolis of Boston

- Wedding Affidavit (signed by the priest, bride & groom)
- A copy of the State Marriage license
- A copy of Wedding seminar certificate
- \$100 check made out to the Holy Metropolis of Boston
- A copy of bride & groom's baptisms
- A copy of koubara/ro baptism.