

Marriage Guidelines

Rev. Gregory R. Barnes

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1 General

1.1 Social Media

If posts¹ deemed indecent by the clergy are posted on any public platform, whether taken down or made private, and regardless of a public or private retraction or apology having or not having been made, the wedding shall take place without wedding dress, Nuptial blessing, Mass or choir.

1.2 Fornication

If one not having been previously married has become publicly known to be pregnant before the marriage the wedding shall take place without wedding dress, Nuptial blessing, Mass or choir.

2 Dresses

2.1 Toleration

Under no circumstances will immodest dress be tolerated. If the bride or her bridesmaids are seen on the church property wearing gowns not in conformity with these guidelines, the wedding is subject to immediate cancellation.

2.2 Forbidden Garments

1. Strapless dresses.
2. “Noodle” or “spaghetti” strap dresses.
3. Sleeveless dresses.
4. Wrap dresses.
5. Dresses with slits.

¹Includes text, images, audio and videos.

6. Open toed shoes.
7. Shoes with heels higher than 1 inch.

2.3 Shawls, etc.

An improper gown shall not be covered with a shawl, scarf, wrap, or any other removable garment. All material used to replace material that is lacking in the garment is to be permanently fixed to the garment. To refuse to affix such replacement material to the garment will result in cancellation of the wedding.

2.4 Lace = Nothing

When altering gowns, *opaque* fabric is to be used. Sheer fabric or lace will not be tolerated.

If you wish to use lace, the lace must have an opaque backer. No exceptions will be made.

2.5 Neckline

The neckline shall be no more than two fingers' breadth lower than the collarbone. No exceptions will be made.

2.6 Back

The back of the bodice shall not be open. The neckline on the back shall not be any lower than the neckline in the front.

2.7 Straps

Strapless dresses will not be tolerated, under any circumstances.

2.8 Sleeves

1. The dress shall not be sleeveless.
2. The dress shall have long sleeves.²

2.9 Bodice

1. The bodice shall not be tight or revealing in any way.
2. The bodice shall be made of an opaque material and shall not be transparent or semi-transparent in any way.

²Short sleeves that completely cover the biceps are permitted.

2.10 Skirt

1. The skirt of the dress shall not be tight in any way.
2. The skirt of the gown shall not be revealing in any way.
3. The skirt of the dress shall not have slits.
4. The entire hem of the skirt shall reach at least the ankles.

2.11 Length

The dress shall be ankle length.

3 Bride

3.1 Dress

1. The color of the dress may be white.³
2. Brides who are marrying a second time shall wear a dark blue dress, which shall conform to all the above restrictions and requirements. Such brides shall not wear a veil before the face.⁴

The dress shall be submitted one month before the wedding to be inspected by the marriage instructor.

3.2 Veil

The veil shall cover the head. If the veil is not deemed by one of the priests to sufficiently cover the head, the veil shall be adjusted until the head is sufficiently covered. Failure to comply will result in immediate cancellation of the wedding.

The veil shall be submitted one month before the wedding to be inspected by the marriage instructor.

³As is the custom in the United States.

⁴Such a veil is a sign of virginity.

4 Groom

5 Bridal Party

5.1 Dress

All of the gowns worn by the bridesmaids shall be ankle-length.

6 In the Church

6.1 Dress Code

All guests shall conform to the chapel's dress code.

For men: Jacket and tie. No earrings. No shorts.

For ladies: A dress or skirt is required; no pants or shorts. The skirt must at least cover the knee, and should not be tight or otherwise revealing in any way. Immodest slits are forbidden. **Clothing should be loose and not form-fitting.** A head covering is also required. See-through blouses are forbidden, as well as clothing which is low-cut either in front or in back.

For everyone: No **tennis shoes, sandals, clogs, thongs, denim.** No piercings. Clothing with writing on it (e.g., sweatshirts or jackets) is also forbidden. The standards of Catholic modesty must be observed. **Anyone in tight, provocative, or otherwise revealing attire will not be permitted to enter the church.**

Those who enter the chapel with clothing not in conformity with the dress code will be presented with a gown with which to cover themselves (e.g. a graduation gown). Those who do not choose to wear the garment presented to them will be asked to leave the property. No exceptions will be made.

6.2 Ceremony

1. Bride and groom do not hold hands until told to do so by the priest.
2. There is no kissing:
 - (a) The father of the bride does not kiss the bride before passing her to the groom.
 - (b) The bride and groom never kiss.
3. Groomsmen and bridesmaids do not lock arms or hold hands at any time.

7 Reception

1. There is no removal of the garter.
2. There is no clinking of glasses so that the bride and groom may kiss.

7.1 Music

All rock music is forbidden.

The playlist shall be submitted one week before the wedding to be inspected by the marriage instructor.

The following are some but not all of the forbidden singers or groups:

1. Elvis Presley
2. The Beatles