St. Elizabeth Parish

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Wedding Policy

1. **All Canonical requirements must be completed** not later than one month before the scheduled wedding. These are done with the cooperation of your Roman Catholic parish priest or deacon. See our website under “Quick Links” for information about the required “Catholic Engaged Encounter” which should take place at least six months before the wedding date. Bridal couples prepared outside of Hawaii must have their canonical documentation forwarded by their priest or deacon to their proper Diocesan Tribunal for forwarding in turn to the Tribunal of the Diocese of Honolulu. Confirmations of the wedding arrangements are made only upon receipt of all the necessary church documents in addition to the fee. All church documents must be received not later than 30 days before the hoped-for wedding date. Only the official channel of documentary forwarding is acceptable, but we do encourage Out-of-State bridal couples to hand carry photocopies of all required church documents and have them available upon arrival in Honolulu.

**2. The State of Hawaii Marriage License** is to be presented to the parish office at the time of the rehearsal unless this wedding is a convalidation, in which case a photocopy of the civil license must be presented.

3. **Liturgical Principles of the Roman Catholic Rite** are always to be respected. Cultural adaptation must be in conformity with our liturgical rites. Items like the “unity candle” belong at the reception rather than at the liturgy. The priest or deacon officiating at any wedding must respect and conform to the Honolulu Diocese Liturgy in agreeing to preside at and/or witness the exchange of consent. Furniture is not to be moved.

4. **Confirmation of the wedding date and time**: No wedding is definitively “confirmed” until and unless all required canonical documentation is received and reviewed and the appropriate fee is paid. Documentation from outside the Diocese of Honolulu must arrive through the proper channel, i.e., via Diocesan Tribunal. There are some days on which weddings are not allowed: generally not on Sundays and Solemnities, during the Paschal Triduum, on All Souls’ Day, and on the days and at times when liturgical principle, personal schedule or other scheduled liturgies prohibit weddings. Weddings are discouraged during Lent, but should any be scheduled during that season, the level of the festivity should be somewhat subdued.

5. **Weddings of Non-Parish Couples** from other parishes in Hawaii: If neither the groom nor the bride are regular worshipers at St. Elizabeth Parish but reside on the island and expect a sizable crowd and a rehearsal, the fee for the use of St. Elizabeth Church is payable at the time of confirmation of the wedding date and time. This should be paid before any invitations are printed.

6. **Weddings from Out-of-State:** must follow these same rules. Sometimes (but not necessarily) they are coordinated by somewhat professional “marriage coordinators” and are relatively small parties (12 or fewer persons.) Note that the marriage coordinators are not responsible for canonical or liturgical requirements. If canonical and /or civil requirements are incomplete, the wedding cannot take place.

7. **Decorations:** St. Elizabeth Church is aesthetically pleasant most times. Seasonal decorations for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter will not be adjusted or added to for weddings. At other times, flowers may be added. No flowers on the altar. Furniture is not to be moved. The use of tape, tacks, glue or other adhesives is not allowed. Proper scheduling must be arranged for decorating. No flower peddles may be dropped anywhere in the church. All rubbish should be removed from the church by persons designated by the bridal couple. Please, no rice or bird seed.

8. **Rehearsal:** Is scheduled at the time the wedding date is scheduled. Participants must be prompt and should dress properly (beach wear is not appropriate). Sobriety and good manners are always in order. Do not bring food or drink into the church; do not bring alcohol onto the property at the rehearsal or wedding. If the priest or deacon from outside the parish has arranged to officiate at the wedding, he MUST attend the wedding.

Photographers:

9. **… must** meet the priest/deacon of the wedding before the ceremony begins. Photographers must follow their directions.

10. **… should dress professionally** and be aware they are in a church.

11. **… should be as unobtrusive** as possible. They should never stand in anyone’s view or prevent anyone from participating fully in the wedding nor should they walk around the church during moments of prayerful silence, solo singing, Scripture readings, and the sermon.

12. **No flash photography** during the ceremony. **Posed photographs** can be arranged and take no longer than one hour after the ceremony. During this time, everyone should observer a proper and dignified demeanor.

13. **Video photographers must remain stationary** during the entire ceremony and used without artificial lighting or strung cables on the floor.