

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

Wedding Liturgy Guidelines

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Norwalk, Ohio

The liturgy during which marriage is celebrated is a sacred moment of rejoicing in prayer, song, and gesture; it is first and above all an act of worship on the part of the Church community. The cardinal principle to keep in mind is simply that photographers and videographers should not distract from that sacred action. Some corollaries of that principle would be:

- Photographers and videographers should be discreet and as far as possible, unnoticed once the liturgy has begun.
- That makes the balcony the preferred location for all photography during the liturgy. Photographers may also shoot from the open space near the ramp entrance as long as they remain largely stationary.
- There is no photography from the center aisle during the liturgy. It is permitted for photographers to station themselves in the break aisle to get photos of the procession coming up the center aisle.
- Any close-up that is not possible due to the respecting of these principles can be staged after the ceremony for perfect, non-distracting placement.
- Only the lighting already available in the church may be used during the liturgy. Additional lighting may of course be used in the church before or after the liturgy.
- Please plan to have all photography completed prior to the beginning of confessions on Saturday afternoon so as not to distract those who are praying and preparing for that sacrament. In effect that gives an hour for photography, which should be plenty of time.