

Guidelines for the Mystery of Marriage

Authority

All authority to conduct the sacred Mysteries and all worship services issues from the Metropolitan. The Mystery of Marriage must therefore be celebrated by an Orthodox Priest according to the Liturgical Tradition of the Orthodox Church.

Periods when the Mystery of Marriage is not Permitted

The Mystery of Marriage is not permitted on the following days:

The day before and the day of the twelve Great Feast Days of Our Lord and the Theotokos:

Circumcision of our Lord (December 31 and January 1),

Theophany of our Lord (January 5 and 6),

Presentation of our Lord in the Temple (February 1 and 2),

Annunciation (March 24 and 25) – which in any event is during the Great Fast,

Palm Sunday (Saturday and Sunday),

Pascha (Saturday and Sunday),

Ascension of our Lord (Wednesday and Thursday),

Pentecost (Saturday and Sunday),

Transfiguration of our Lord (August 5 and 6),

Dormition of the Theotokos (August 14 and 15),

Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple (November 20 and 21),

Nativity of our Lord (December 24 and 25);

During the Great Fast (Great Lent) and Holy Week;

During the Dormition Fast (August 1 through 15);

On the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (August 29);

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14);

During the latter portion of the Nativity Fast, specifically from December 13 through 25, inclusive.

Note: *The Church has not forbidden the Celebration of the Mystery of Marriage during the Apostle's Fast after Pentecost.*

Impediments (Prohibited Marriages)

A couple may not be married if the groom and the bride are related according to the criteria of the following groups:

First Group: Parents with their own children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren;

Second Group: Brothers-in-law with sisters-in-law;

Third Group: Uncles and aunts with nieces and nephews;