

Dear Parishioner,

In order to avoid unnecessary problems and to help you in planning for your wedding, we would like to remind you of the following:

1. Please fill out the enclosed form and return it immediately. The date/time of your wedding will NOT be confirmed until that form is returned to the office.
2. Every couple planning to be married in a Greek Orthodox Church must attend one marriage preparation and enrichment seminar. This seminar, comprised of two sessions which meet according to the enclosed schedule, is held in the parlor room of our Educational Center from 7:00-9:00 p.m. While you are free to choose the sessions in any month that is most convenient for you, we strongly suggest that you have completed your attendance AT LEAST TWO MONTHS before your scheduled wedding date. PLEASE REMEMBER; NO COUPLE WILL BE PERMITTED BY THE DIOCESE REGISTRY OFFICE TO HAVE A CHURCH WEDDING WITHOUT THE NECESSARY SEMINAR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION. IN ADDITION, NO PRIEST HAS THE AUTHORITY TO EXCUSE YOU FROM THIS OBLIGATION.

Please check the seminar schedule on the back of this letter and choose the month which is most convenient for you; when you have decided which month you plan to attend, please notify the church office (978-531-0777) so a place can be reserved for you. **IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO VISIT THE CHURCH OFFICE WELL IN ADVANCE TO GET THE MARRIAGE SEMINAR STUDY MATERIALS. THESE MATERIALS MUST BE READ AND FILLED OUT BY BOTH YOU AND YOUR FIANCEE. YOU MUST BRING THE COMPLETED MATERIAL WITH YOU TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEMINAR.**

2. Approximately 5 to 6 weeks before the wedding, an appointment must be made to see Fr. Chris for the purpose of preparing the necessary wedding papers. Both bride and groom must be present at this meeting.
3. If both bride and groom are Greek Orthodox, they must be members in good standing of their respective parishes. If either the bride or the groom belongs to a parish other than St. Vasilios, they must bring a letter from their priest stating that they are members in good standing in that parish.
4. If one of the parties of the marriage is not Orthodox, a simple baptismal certificate is all that will be needed. A baptismal certificate is also required for the Orthodox party if he/she was not baptized at St. Vasilios Church.
5. If one of the parties to the marriage has been married before, it is **absolutely essential** that a valid divorce decree be presented. If the marriage was performed outside the Orthodox Church, a civil decree from

