



Preparing for Your Wedding at Mater Dei Parish

Congratulations on your engagement! If you're wondering "What do I do now?," you've come to the right place. We are happy to support and assist you as you plan your wedding and prepare to enter into the holy Sacrament of Matrimony.

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Getting Started

What Do I Need to Do to Get Married at Mater Dei?

To get married at Mater Dei, you must:

- Have at least one member of the couple be a Catholic and a member of Mater Dei Parish
- **IMPORTANT:** Either the bride or groom *must have an address in the Dallas diocese* and that person must be a parishioner at Mater Dei in order to have a wedding ceremony at the parish. If this is not your situation, the diocese will not allow the marriage ceremony to take place at Mater Dei. Email secretary@materdeiparish.com for more details.
- Both parties must take the FOCCUS survey (a marriage preparation tool used widely in the U.S. Catholic Church)
- The couple prepares with a priest
- Take a Natural Family Planning course of our choosing and receive a certificate of completion; course completion will take 6-8 weeks.
- Submit required forms
- Work with the parish wedding coordinator

First Steps

By diocesan regulation, preparation for marriage must be started six or more months in advance of the desired wedding date. This time frame starts when you first meet with the priest, not the date of your engagement or the date you contact the parish.

1. After your engagement, complete this form: <https://forms.gle/mzbwKPQRKamsCgxS7>
2. Once completed, the parish secretary (secretary@materdeiparish.com) will contact you via email to arrange to take the online FOCCUS survey, provide further information about marrying at Mater Dei, and schedule an appointment with your preparing priest. (Note: your preparing priest will also officiate your Nuptials & Mass)

Very important note: Before you can start your marriage preparation with a priest, you each must submit a “Freedom to Marry” witness affidavit to the office. The secretary will set up your first meeting with the priest after these are submitted. Link to the affidavits:

[https://www.cathdal.org/Form II Affidavit of freedom to Marry Dallas.pdf](https://www.cathdal.org/Form%20II%20Affidavit%20of%20freedom%20to%20Marry%20Dallas.pdf)

Meet with your assigned priest and begin marriage prep

- (Optional) Betrothal ceremony
 - During your engagement, there is a betrothal ceremony and blessing of the engagement ring that you can have done by a priest.

- What is a betrothal ceremony?
<https://www.latinmasswedding.com/rite-of-betrothal/>.
 - Please contact the secretary to set up a date if you wish to do this.
3. After your initial meeting with the priest, the parish wedding coordinator (events@materdeiparish.com) and assistant coordinator (weddings@materdeiparish.com) will meet with you via Zoom to set up your wedding date, assist you with your ceremony details, Mass logistics, forms, and fees, along with various circumstances (see the “Frequently Asked Questions” section below)
- Notes:**
- If you hire a wedding coordinator to facilitate other details and preparations for your wedding, our coordinators are happy to work with him/her if requested.
 - Only the parish wedding coordinators will be allowed to provide coordination of the ceremony and Mass.
4. **After completing the first meeting with the priest, a wedding date can be set.** The Dallas Diocese dictates that a couple may not set a date any earlier than SIX months from the date of the first meeting with the priest (not 6 months from engagement). A wedding date will not be put on the calendar until you have met with the priest. You will set the date with the wedding coordinator.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- We weren’t married in the Catholic Church and want to have our marriage convalidated. What do we do?
Contact the parish Sacrament secretary who will help you begin that process.
- We are getting married elsewhere, can we be prepared by a Mater Dei priest?
If you are looking to wed at a parish *outside of the Dallas or Ft. Worth diocese*, your marriage preparation may be conducted by a priest at Mater Dei, pending the pastor’s approval.
Note #1: Our priests can not prepare couples who are marrying at another parish in the Dallas or Ft. Worth diocese.
Note #2: A completed NFP course is required by the Dallas diocese, even if the diocese you are marrying in does not have this requirement
- We want to get married at Mater Dei, but both live out-of-the-area:
This is likely not an option, due to the “personal parish” status of Mater Dei and canon law surrounding who can marry at personal parishes. If this is your situation, contact sacraments@materdeiparish.com.

- We are planning to wed at Mater Dei and would like a non-Mater Dei priest to be involved with:
 - officiating nuptials
 - offering the Mass (TLM only)
 - giving a sermon
 - sitting in choir in the sanctuary

All of this is allowed, pending pastor approval and reception of a letter of suitability for the priest. Priests must be affiliated with a diocese or religious order that is in full communion with the Catholic Church.

- We are getting married elsewhere and would like a Mater Dei priest to officiate the nuptials and offer the Mass:

The pastor will consider these situations on a case-by-case basis. Requests of this nature may possibly be granted if the wedding will occur at another FSSP parish, but approval is not assured. If the wedding will take place at a parish which is not fitted for a Traditional Latin Mass, our priests can not fulfill this request.

- My fiance is not Catholic, can we have a Church wedding?

Yes, you may marry in the Catholic Church if only one person of the couple is Catholic. The priest will discuss this further with you during your marriage prep.

- How much does it cost to get married at Mater Dei?

While there is not a charge to receive sacraments at the parish, there are costs associated with marriages conducted at Mater Dei, marriage prep that is done by our priests for weddings elsewhere, and convalidations. All costs are detailed on page 15 under “Wedding Costs”

- Are there dress code requirements?

Yes, Mater Dei has a dress code and we request that it be observed by anyone attending your wedding. Please let your guests know about it by providing this link on your wedding website: <https://materdeiparish.com/about/>.

The bridal party is required to abide by the parish dress code. The wedding coordinator can provide assistance to help you determine dresses which will conform to it; pictures of each bridesmaid and the bride will have to be submitted to the wedding coordinator for approval. The dress guidelines (w/pix!) for the bride/bridesmaids can be found on page 21-23 in the *Resources* section below.

Required Documents

While a wedding date will be scheduled, there is no assurance the marriage will take place until all the paperwork has been processed and approved by the diocese. If payment is made towards a wedding that is not able to take place due to lack of diocesan approval, any fees paid to the parish will be returned.

The following are required documents for marriage in the Catholic Church, or are required by the Dallas diocese. All forms and documents must be sent to the parish office to the attention of the parish secretary and need to be received by the office, at the latest, 60 days prior to the wedding:

Church Documents

- **Pre-nuptial Questionnaire**
 - This must be completed to begin the process of marriage preparation. This is completed by the couple with the secretary or the priest.
- **Baptismal certificate** -- currently dated and original (not photocopy)
 - This must have notations of all sacraments received; per diocesan policy, this must be issued no earlier than six months before the wedding day.
 - Non-Catholics must provide a copy of their original baptismal certificate or a letter from their church indicating that they are baptized.
 - Non-baptized persons need only advise that they are not baptized.
- **“Affidavit of Freedom to Marry”**-- one each for both the bride and groom
 - This form is preferably completed by a parent or adult sibling, but may be completed by someone who has known you since age 13 (they do not need to be Catholic). The signer needs to complete the form at a Catholic church in front of a priest, deacon, or designated lay pastoral assistant, and the seal of the parish needs to be stamped on the document.
 - https://www.cathdal.org/Form_II_Affidavit_of_freedom_to_Marry_Dallas.pdf
- **(If applicable): Annulment Document or Death Certificate**
 - Those with previous marriages (Catholic or non-Catholic) must provide an annulment document, death certificate, or other information as necessary. A divorce decree by itself is not sufficient.
- **A Natural Family Planning course completion certificate**

Legal Documents

- **Civil Marriage License** from any county in Texas
 - Can be legally obtained between 90 days - 72 hours before your marriage. Submit the license to the parish office one month prior to your wedding date. **The wedding ceremony cannot take place without a submitted civil marriage license.**

Note: You can get a discount on your license with proof of doing your marriage prep with us! The marriage preparation through our parish is approved by the state “Together in Texas” Healthy Marriage Program, and allows a \$60 discount on the state marriage license in Texas.

Once your prep is complete, you will need to contact the secretary to request the certificate to take to the county office when you apply for your license.

Marriage license information by county:

Dallas County (\$71):

<https://www.dallascounty.org/government/jpcourts/3-2/wedding-ceremonies-marriage-license-information.php>

Collin County (\$81)::

https://www.collincountytexas.gov/county_clerk/marriage/Pages/marriage.aspx

Denton County (\$82): <https://www.dentoncounty.gov/330/Marriage-Licenses>

Tarrant County (\$75): <https://www.dentoncounty.gov/330/Marriage-Licenses>

Rockwall County (\$82): <https://www.rockwallcountytexas.com/110/Marriage-Licenses>

(Note: Dallas County has a residency requirement & requires an appointment.

Sometimes appointments are as far as 5 weeks out. The other counties in this area do not have residency requirements and allow for walk-in appointments.

Per state law, we will mail your license to the appropriate County, with tracking, the week after your wedding and text you a picture of the receipt. Your license will be recorded and mailed back to you at the address you provide to the County. You should get your license back within a month of your wedding.

Scheduling Your Wedding, Rehearsal, & Bride’s Room

Wedding Date and Time

Time:

- Weddings on Fridays may be scheduled with a starting time between 2-
- Weddings on 2nd-5th Saturdays may be scheduled with a starting time between 11am - 4pm.
- Weddings on the first Saturday can start between noon-4pm.
- If you would like a Monday-Thursday wedding, the coordinator will work with you to obtain a wedding start time that works around the parish Mass schedule.

Date:

- Weddings may be on any day except Sunday
- Weddings may not be scheduled on or during:
 - Holy Days of obligation
 - All Souls Day
 - The season of Lent
 - The Octaves of Easter and Pentecost
 - The Vigil of Pentecost
- Non-Saturday weddings have restricted music options due to less singer availability. You will need to contact the music director early on if you would like a Sung Mass
- There can be two weddings on a Saturday, but the start times must be at least 3 hours apart. The couple who schedules the date first has priority in scheduling a time.

Rehearsal & Wedding Day Reservations

Rehearsal Date

Rehearsals are typically scheduled the day prior to the wedding, but may be any day.

Starting times available for the rehearsal:

- Friday between 2:00 -5pm (4:45 if attendants =7+)
 - There is a Friday evening Mass at 6pm. The church must be clear by 5:30.
- Thursday between 2-5p.m.

What Should I Expect at the Rehearsal?

The rehearsal will last approximately 30 minutes-45 minutes depending on the bridal party size. Expect two run-throughs.

What Do I Need to Do for the Rehearsal?

- Arrive on time.
 - Traffic is crazy -- if you schedule your rehearsal to start between 4:00-5:00, please prepare and allow sufficient time to get to the church as area traffic is notoriously heavy during this time period.
Note: If there is an extreme delay in the rehearsal start time, your rehearsal may have to be canceled.
- Follow the Mater Dei dress code (see pg. #21 for details. This is required for all attendees & bridal party members). If dress code is not adhered to by any in the bridal party, the rehearsal will take place in the parish hall.
- For bride and groom - if Catholic, both the bride and groom should receive the sacrament of Confession prior to the wedding date.
 - Confessions will be offered for the bride and groom before or after the rehearsal. Confessions at the parish are held from 6:30-8pm on Fridays; others attending the rehearsal may avail themselves of the sacrament at that time if they wish.

Wedding Day Room Reservations

Bridal Dressing Room

There is a bride's room available for use of the bride and attendants which the wedding coordinator will reserve for you.

Bridal Dressing Room FAQ:

- What's allowed?
 - Food and drinks.
- What's not allowed?
 - Alcohol & liquor
- How does cleaning work?
 - The room must be cleared out within an hour of the ceremony's end. The \$100 cleaning deposit covers use of this room, as well as the church and groom's area. See page 17 for cleaning details.

Parish Hall

The parish hall may be reserved for the rehearsal dinner and/or reception; there are fees associated with each of these events. If you are interested in either of these options, discuss this with the wedding coordinator. The hall is booked many weekends for parish activities and availability is limited.

Planning the Ceremony

Some Quick Before-and-After-the-Ceremony Notes

Before

- Marriage Banns:
 - Wedding Banns will be published in the parish bulletin the three Sundays prior to your wedding. Some couples like to save the bulletins and insert them into their wedding photo book :)
- Wedding Ceremony/Mass booklets
 - The parish will provide Wedding Mass missal booklets for guests to borrow to assist with following the Latin Mass. We have English/Latin and a small number of Spanish/Latin wedding missals. They will be made available in the vestibule by the double doors.
- Programs
 - The couple may provide printed programs they have created for their guests.

After

Clean-up

Please treat Mater Dei facilities with the respect one would treat his own home and possessions by cleaning any areas used for the preparation of the wedding. All areas must be cleaned by the wedding party so they may be presentable for Sunday Masses. Beverages, food, smoking, and gum chewing are not allowed in the church at any time. See page 17 for specifics related to cleaning.

Liturgy

In the Traditional Latin Mass Marriage Ceremony, the Wedding Rite takes place prior to the Mass. The readings, prayers and marriage ceremony are strictly according to the 1962 Roman Missal. The Marriage Service can be found on page 1682 in the Baronius Press Missal.

Wedding Mass choices:

- Low Mass (1 priest)
- Missa Cantata/Sung Mass (1 priest)

Note: If you would like a non-Mater Dei priest involved in your Wedding Ceremony/Mass, this can often be done and you will need to discuss this with your preparing priest and the wedding coordinator.

Altar servers

The parish will provide altar servers for your wedding or you may choose to provide your own. The servers must know how to serve the Traditional Latin Mass and the priest must approve any servers who are not parishioners. Non-parishioner servers will need to make an appointment with the officiating priest to determine if they are capable of serving the Mass.

A Low Mass requires two altar servers; a Sung Mass or a Solemn High Mass requires four altar servers.

Lectors, Gift Bearers, or Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

The Traditional Latin Mass Marriage Ceremony and Mass does not lend itself to individuals serving as lectors, gift bearers, or Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. If you are trying to think of other ways to give a title or job to a guest of honor, we recommend asking special guests to hand out programs, or be ushers or greeters outside the doors.

Music

The wedding coordinator will send you all documents pertaining to music for both a Low and Sung Mass before she meets with you. To make arrangements for all wedding music, you will need to complete the Wedding Music Google Form and submit it at least three months prior to your wedding date. No arrangements should be made before submitting this form. If you have musicians outside of Mater Dei that you would like to sing/play at your wedding, you will need to discuss this with the Music Director.

The parish Music Director, or his determined stand-in, are in attendance at all weddings which entail music.

Marian Flowers

The couple may choose to visit the Marian side altar to pray and/or leave a small arrangement of flowers. This will take place during or after the Last Gospel. The parish Altar Flower group will create a bouquet for you with the flowers being used on the altar for no additional cost.

You will need to submit the “Wedding Flower Intake Form” to the Altar Flower coordinator at least three months prior to your wedding.

Planning the Wedding Settings and Attendants

Wedding Attendants

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen:

- The couple must have at least two persons, in addition to the priest, to witness the vows.
- You may have as many bridesmaids and groomsmen as you desire.
Note: Only women may be bridesmaids and only men may be groomsmen.

Ring bearers and flower girls:

- Ring bearers and flower girls may be included in the ceremony (Who could say no to cute little kids?). There is not an age minimum for these roles and parents/caregiver may accompany little ones down the aisle if they are very young or too nervous to go down on their own.
- Flower girls may strew artificial or dried flower petals, paper hearts, etc. down the center aisle, as long as those items are cleaned up afterwards. *Fresh petals may not be used.*

Sanctuary Floral Arrangements and Decor

The couple must provide fresh floral arrangements for the three Sanctuary altars.

Flowers / Floral Arrangements

FAQ:

- How do I get flowers for the altars?
 - Option A: You may contract with a florist to provide Sanctuary flowers for the wedding.
 - Cost of flowers for option A: Whatever you pay the florist --the parish does not require additional fees if you choose this option.
 - Outside florists need to contact the parish altar flower coordinator to discuss arrangements and placement of the flowers on the altars.
 - There must be six floral arrangements for your wedding: two smaller ones for each side altar, and two larger ones for the main altar. Floor arrangements are not allowed.
 - Option B: You may have the Altar Flower group make the arrangements for you, with your input regarding colors.
 - Cost is included in the altar and church honorarium portion of your payment.

- You will submit the Wedding Flower Intake Form to the altar flower coordinator to submit your wedding colors.
- Does the Altar Flower group make bouquets, boutonnieres or corsages?
 - No. However, we have several ladies in the flower arranging group who have side businesses doing this if you'd like our recommendation and are highly experienced. Contact the wedding coordinator for their contact information.
- Can I present a bouquet to the Blessed Mother?
 - Yes, we encourage couples to incorporate this beautiful tradition into their ceremony; the presentation to the Blessed Mother is done after the Mass has finished.
Note: If the parish altar flower group is creating your sanctuary arrangements, you can ask them to create a bouquet for the Blessed Mother at no additional charge. We will provide a vase for the floral arrangement -- more details can be discussed with the wedding coordinator.
- Can I replace or remove the flowers and/or decor in the sanctuary and church during liturgical seasons?
 - The flowers and decor, during certain liturgical seasons like Christmas, Easter, and the month of May, as well as the more penitential décor/lack of decor during Advent and Lent, must be left as they are.
- Can I keep or take home my flower arrangements?
 - We ask that all flower arrangements in the Sanctuary are to be left as a thanksgiving gift offering. Please keep your personal flowers.

Décor

Allowed: Floor runners, pew bows, small items strewn down center aisle; (outside) bubbles and sparklers (see Irving city policy regarding sparklers in "Checklist" section)

Not allowed: Additional candles, candle stands, and candelabras; rice, bird seed, potpourri, confetti, fresh flower petals strewn down middle aisle (you may use silk/artificial or dried flower petals)

Note: All decorative ideas need to be discussed with, and approved by, the wedding coordinator. All décor, except for altar flowers, need to be removed after the pictures are taken.

Photography/Videography

We love seeing our couples' wedding photos! Please feel free to share them with us or tag Mater Dei if you post them.

What does the photographer and/or videographer need to do?

In order to take footage inside the church, all photography and videography providers must:

- Complete the online parish Photography and Videography Policy Agreement Form
- Abide by the parish dress code -- please ensure your photographer/ videographer is aware of this requirement.

Note: Photographers and videographers will not be allowed to photograph or record your wedding unless they are attired according to the parish dress code.

Photographers may arrive any time prior to the wedding and may take pictures in the church up to 30 minutes before the ceremony begins.

Note about photos after Mass:

Unless notified otherwise by the wedding coordinator, you are not limited in time for photos taken in the church after the ceremony.

Important: The church is a sacred space and our community refrains from unnecessary conversation there. After the Mass, while pictures are being taken, friends and family often remain in the pews to watch. We ask that all attendees and guests respect Mater Dei's sacred space, remain quiet, and refrain from unnecessary conversation while inside the church.

Determining Costs

Note that there are some costs associated with couples being prepared at Mater Dei and marrying elsewhere which will be collected prior to sending in the paperwork to the Diocese. Those can be found at the end of this document. There may also be a cost for certified NFP classes.

Wedding Costs

While the sacrament of matrimony itself has no cost, in order to fairly compensate those involved and process the required paperwork, there are costs associated with having a wedding ceremony at Mater Dei.

The wedding coordinator will discuss them with you and establish a payment arrangement that will work for you. Final payment is due one month prior to your wedding date. All paid funds are 100% refundable if you decide not to marry at Mater Dei.

Costs are inclusive; you do not need to pay any additional stipends or offerings.

A \$300 deposit** is due within 2 weeks after meeting with the wedding coordinator. It is 100% refundable if you decide not to marry at Mater Dei. See information below regarding application of the deposit towards the final balance. Final payment is due one month prior to your wedding date.

Low Mass:

- Altar and church honorariums: \$450
- Administrative support: \$200
- Organ: \$300
- (optional) Cantor: \$100
- Cleaning deposit: \$100*

Sung Mass:

- Altar and church honorariums: \$615
- Administrative support: \$200
- Organ: \$300
- Choral vocalists: \$150-\$600 (see separate music page for pricing)
- Cleaning deposit: \$100*

*Cleaning deposit: There is a \$100 cleaning deposit - which can be returned - required for the bridal and/or grooms' dressing room and the church. This is paid with your final payment. Assign someone to clean out these rooms of all personal items and food/drink. If you have pew bows, an aisle runner or petals dropped by the flower girl, these items need to be cleaned out of

the church. *If all areas are cleaned, the deposit will be returned to you.* If any items are left and cleaned by church personnel, you will forego the deposit.

****Ceremony deposit:** A \$300 deposit is due two weeks after you have met with the wedding coordinator. 100% of the deposit will be applied to the balance of your wedding fees if all deadlines for paperwork and bridal party attire images are met. If certain deadlines are not met, you will forego portions of the deposit. This is 100% refundable if you choose not to marry at Mater Dei. The deposit is broken down as follows:

All required forms for both parties submitted to the office 60 days prior to the wedding: **\$100**

Wedding & Bridesmaids dresses that are being considered (6 weeks after Zoom meeting): **\$50**

Wedding & bridesmaid dress, initial image submission (3 or 4* months prior to wedding): **\$50**

Wedding & bridesmaid dress, final image (2 weeks prior to wedding) :**\$100**

Note 1: if the wedding is more than 9 months out from the Zoom meeting, the submission date for dresses being considered will be moved out.

* Four months if the bridesmaids dresses vary, three months if they are all the same

Additional notes:

Note 1: Non-Saturday weddings incur an additional \$20-\$40 honorarium

Note 2: Solemn Mass: You should plan to need to bring in at least one other cleric, possibly two, in order to have a Solemn Mass. Sometimes it does work that enough of our own priests are available to serve a Solemn Mass. There is an additional Solemn Mass honorarium of \$200.

Note 3: If you schedule a wedding on the same day as one already scheduled, there is an additional \$50 cost. The altar flowers will be shared by both weddings; the person arranging the flowers will coordinate the colors of both weddings to provide arrangements that will suit.

Music

A separate document will be provided which provides all details. Any of the music options will provide beautiful music for your wedding!

Note 1: A Sung Mass on a Non-Saturday or between Christmas and New Year's may have limited vocalist availability. Organ fees may be higher.

Note 2: It is not always possible to have the full choir that you paid for at your wedding. If there are fewer singers than you paid for, you will be reimbursed for the additional singers you were charged for, but were not able to be secured.

Additional costs not paid to the parish:

- 1) The couple pays for the FOCCUS survey online, prior to taking it. The cost is \$20/couple.
- 2) A Natural Family Planning (NFP) course

Costs if you are marrying elsewhere or obtaining a convalidation:

- Prepared at Mater Dei, married elsewhere: **\$300 + \$100 deposit***
- Convalidation preparation & ceremony: **\$350 + \$100 deposit***

*The deposit is returned if your required paperwork is turned in on time. The wedding coordinator will discuss this with you.

NFP Class:

The Dallas diocese requires that all couples marrying in the diocese submit a certificate of completion from a certified NFP class. Details can be found in the NFP document the wedding coordinator will provide to you.

Finding Resources

Below are various resources that our couples have found helpful regarding the Latin Mass Wedding itself as well as dress and tailoring resources, flower sources, and photographers.

Latin Mass Wedding Information: <https://www.latinmasswedding.com/>

Modest Wedding Dress websites:

This is a sampling of websites known to sell dresses appropriate for Mater Dei. Note that not everything on the website or in the “modest” category will fit within the parameters of our dress guidelines.

These sources are offered as a courtesy to our brides based off of sites that other brides have found to be helpful. You are welcome to look at whatever site our store you like, and if you find a place that has lots of good options for dresses that fit within the Mater Dei dress code, feel free to share your findings to help future brides as well! Please remember that since you know yourself better than anyone else, only you will be able to find the dress that is perfect for what you want on your wedding day.

New dresses:

Brides

- <http://www.adressyoccasion.com/bridal>
- <http://www.allurebridals.com/category/modest>
- <https://barbieannebridal.com/>

- <http://www.bhldn.com/>
- <http://www.dressale.com/>
- <https://latterdaybride.com/>
- <http://www.totallymodest.com/>
- <https://www.bridalight.com/>
- <https://www.elizabethcooperdesign.com/>
- <https://www.junebridals.com/>

Bridesmaids

- <http://www.jencllothing.com/>
- <https://www.jjshouse.com/all/bridesmaid-dresses>
- <https://allurebridals.com/>
- <http://www.eshakti.com/Shop/Bride> - offers affordable customization of all aspects of dresses to meet dress code requirements.
- <https://daintyjewells.com/>
- <https://dmfashion.com/collections/bridesmaids-dresses>
- <https://mainstreetexchangeapparel.com/collections/wedding-guest-dresses>

Pre-owned bridal dresses:

These websites are regularly updated and will take more time to go through to find the perfect dress, but it may be worth your time! The links will help with sorting.

- *Pre-Owned Wedding Dresses:*
<https://www.preownedweddingdresses.com/dresses/sleeves>
- *Still White:* <https://www.stillwhite.com/sleeves>
- *Etsy* (Vintage, handmade, and custom dresses) <https://www.etsy.com/weddingdresses>
- *Ebay:* <https://www.ebay.com/weddingdresses/sleeves>
- *Others:* Some brides have found great deals on Facebook Marketplace, borrowing dresses from friends/family, or even the thrift store!

Seamstresses:

- Martha Valdivia (parishioner)
 - 214-549-5644
 - Tailoring dresses
- Jenny Nguyen
 - Location: Northeast Tailor, 937 Melbourne Road, Hurst, TX 76053
 - Phone: 817-590-0284
 - Offerings: Jenny can make custom bride & bridesmaids' dresses

- Susannah Kennedy
 - Email: susannahkennedy14@gmail.com
 - Phone: 469-426-1198
 - Offerings: Susannah can tailor, customize, and adjust bride & bridesmaids' dresses
- De France Coutre (Personalized/customized dresses at reasonable price)
 - Location: 13331 Preston Rd, Dallas, TX
 - Website: <http://www.defrancecouture.com/>

Non-Altar Flowers (bouquets, boutonnieres, centerpieces, etc)

Fran's Flowers: <https://www.facebook.com/fransflowers>

Fran Hill (MD altar flower group member) 469-223-7785,, fhill55@yahoo.com

Jaden Therese: Jaden Downes, <https://www.jadentherese.com/>

Lily Blossoms floral design: Lucy Crawford, lucyacrawford07@gmail.com

Laura Sercer: <https://irvingfloralsbylaura.weebly.com/contact.html>, laura@papania.org, (404) 538-1097

Veronica Sotelo: MD altar flower group member who has a floral and event business
940-442-3435, vepsotelo@gmail.com

Photographers:

These are both Catholic photographers who have shot multiple weddings at Mater Dei and who brides have highly recommended and loved! If you use one of these photographers, they do not need to complete the Photographer/Videographer form, as they are familiar with photographing weddings at Mater Dei. (*designates Mater Dei parishioner)

*Francesca Schell photography: [Francesca Schell Photography \(mypixieset.com\)](http://mypixieset.com)

(Francesca provides a complimentary engagement session and 10% discount for MD brides)

*Lorraine Marie Photography – Photographer Serving North Texas

Matt Redden; <http://vitaephoto.com/> (specializes in Latin Mass weddings)

Katie Meckley: <http://katiemeckleyphotography.com/>

Mater Dei Dress Guidelines

Shirts / Blouses:

- Neckline and/or buttoned buttons within a hands width of the top of the sternum
- Loose-fitting, not tight or form-fitting
- Sleeves at least to half (between shoulder and elbow)
- Material must be opaque, not sheer or see-through

Pants / Skirts:

- Loose-fitting, not form-fitting
- Opaque, not see-through
- Neat, non-ripped, and clean pants; no shorts or jeans
- Skirt length should cover the knee when seated
- Slits must be below the knee
- For women: veiling is welcomed and appreciated (but not required)

Bearing in mind that the wedding ceremony is a Sacrament, the couple understands that the attire of the wedding party or any member of the procession needs to reflect the solemnity of the ceremony and is in accord with the parish dress code. This includes any family members that choose to be part of the procession.

Bride/Bridesmaid Dress Guidelines

Neckline

- Necklines must rise sufficiently above the top of the bust line.
- Sweetheart necklines are allowed if they rise sufficiently above the bust line
- As “sufficient” is a vague word, this is a guideline to better describe it:

Keep necklines 4 finger-widths or less down from your collarbone. To measure 4 finger-widths, place your hand on your chest keeping your index finger lined up with your collarbone



Arms/Shoulders

- Shoulders and armpits must be amply covered; armpits must be covered when the arm is extended.
- Minimum quarter sleeve; cap sleeves are not sufficient coverage
- Flower girls, up to the age of 8, may wear a sleeveless dress.

If the bride or bridesmaids dresses are sleeveless or have an insufficient sleeve/strap, an opaque/dense lace pattern jacket, bolero, or shrug must be worn. The shrug must have a clasp and must cover the entire shoulder. A wrap must have sleeves, or be one piece with an opening for the neck. A shawl/long scarf may not be used as a cover.

Jackets and Covers

If dresses require a jacket or cover, the jacket/cover must be worn at all times in the church or in public space on church property (this includes for pictures on parish grounds).

Back lines

- The back of the dresses may not be low cut
- Back cut-outs are not allowed
- The dress back needs to be in line with the armpit (see Mater Dei Wedding Attire Guidelines document for further details)

Length and Silhouettes

- Dresses need to hang below and cover the knee entirely when sitting, and any slits must be below the knee.
- Mermaid, trumpet and all other tight or form-fitting gowns must have some form of coverage around the bottom. This may include a cape or other form of flowing fabric that draws the eye away from the hips and bottom and back up to the face. As some

silhouettes are simply too tight, the coordinators may deny the dress all together. This includes bridesmaids and wedding gowns.

Dress material

Most materials are fine for wedding dresses, but some can be tricky because of sheerness issues, particularly netting and lace. The wedding coordinator will help you determine fabric density to ensure that you and your bridal party are properly attired before the wedding.

The wedding coordinator has a detailed document entitled Mater Dei Wedding Attire Guidelines with regularly updated photos and more information. This document goes into further detail and touches on current trends with problems and their solutions. This will also be sent to you as well. Please ensure to read this before the Bridal/Wedding Coordinator meeting.

Men's attire

Groom and groomsmen attire should consist of a sport coat and slacks, suit or tuxedo. The guys are lucky because as long as the buttons are buttoned properly and the shirt material isn't see-through, they don't have nearly as much sifting through options to do!

Check List

- _____ Complete Engaged Couple intake form (link on page 4)
- _____ Parish Secretary will email you to schedule first meeting with preparing priest
- _____ Submit *Affidavit of Freedom* for both Bride and Groom before meeting priest
- _____ Meet with Wedding Coordinators
- _____ Schedule Rehearsal and Wedding dates/place on calendar
- _____ Submit (no earlier than 6 mos) Baptism certificate (from parish) for each person
- _____ Submit any additional documents needed for your situation 60 days prior
- _____ Once prep is done with priest, contact secretary to obtain "Twogether in Texas" cert.
- _____ Submit Music form, flower form and photographer form 90 days prior to ceremony
- _____ Obtain approval for wedding dress and bridesmaids' dresses
- _____ Pay fees and submit civil marriage license; 1 month prior to ceremony

***Sparklers:** Per City of Irving fire code, hand-held novelty sparkling devices *are allowed* for outside use. The box of sparklers must say "novelty" and the boxes must be on hand at your event. If a city official investigates the sparklers and either: a) the boxes don't have the word "novelty" on them, b) the boxes are not available for the official to see or c) there are not enough boxes for all the sparklers the official sees, you will be cited.