

*Guidelines for the Celebration  
Of the Sacrament of Marriage  
At the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes  
Mount Saint Mary's University*

**The Wedding Couple:**

The essential requirement for a wedding to take place at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes is that one party be a member of the Mount Community. Those included as eligible are:

1. Students currently enrolled at Mount St. Mary's University and have completed at least two semesters.
2. Alumni of the University.
3. Employees of Mount St. Mary's University or their children, Members of the Board of Trustees or their children

The privilege of being married at Mount Saint Mary's Grotto cannot be extended to the general public, in accord with the policy agreed upon by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Mount Saint Mary's University. The sons and daughters of Alumni do not qualify. The Grotto or University does not have the authority to grant exceptions to this policy.

**Arrangements:**

Permission for a wedding at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes must be obtained from the Grotto Office. The scheduling of both the wedding ceremony and rehearsal is made through the Grotto Office (telephone 301.447.5318). Rehearsals must be before 4:30 PM, any day. No weddings are scheduled at the Grotto on Sundays. In accordance with the norms of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, outdoor weddings are not permitted. All weddings scheduled at the Grotto are to be held in the Chapel of Saint Mary on the Hill.

**Offering:**

There is a non-refundable offering of \$250 required to confirm the reservation of the Grotto. The total fee is \$500 (the balance is due 60 days before the wedding date). No wedding is considered "scheduled" until the offering is received. Checks may be made payable to: National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, and mailed to the address below. We also accept credit cards.

**Required Paperwork:**

Paperwork/certificates necessary for weddings at the Grotto:

- a.) Statement from both pastors granting permission to be married outside of their parish.
- b.) Letter from both pastors stating both parties are free to marry.
- c.) Baptism Certificate from both parties dated within three months of the wedding date.
- d.) Pre-Nuptial Investigation (taken by bride's pastor).
- e.) Marriage License for Frederick County, which is available at The License Bureau in the Frederick County Court House, 100 West Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701, telephone 301.694.1960.
- f.) Certificate indicating that both parties have taken the Pre-Cana Course or Engaged Encounter.
- g.) Matrimonial Dispensation for a mixed marriage (to be obtained by the pastor of the Catholic party).

All paper work pertaining to your marriage at the Grotto must be sent directly to: Saint Anthony's Shrine, 16150 St. Anthony Road, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727, telephone 301.447.6294.

**Officiant:**

The priest or deacon who officiates at your marriage is responsible for all paperwork. This should be done six months prior to your wedding date---please be certain to contact him. He will know what to do to help you in these necessary matters. You are free to ask any priest or deacon in good standing to officiate at your wedding. The priest or deacon officiating at the marriage ceremony at the Grotto is obligated to notify both pastors of the fact and must also contact the local pastor for delegation (see address above). The local pastor must be contacted for proper delegation at least one month in advance of the date of the wedding. Copy of the County Marriage License marked "clergyman's copy" must be handed to the pastor of St. Anthony's immediately after the wedding by the priest/deacon witnessing the marriage, and while there, should sign the marriage register. If you are in need of the services of a chaplain, the Grotto chaplains are available with an additional fee of \$150.

**Music:**

Please inquire if you need assistance with music.

**Rice, Bird Seed, Confetti:**

Because of past injuries at weddings at the Grotto caused by the throwing of rice, Candy, birdseed, beans, etc., such practices are prohibited. If this rule is not observed, the bride and groom are liable for any legal repercussions.

**Alcohol:**

All alcoholic beverages are forbidden at all times in the Grotto precincts.

**Rest Rooms/Dressing Rooms:**

Restroom facilities are available at the Grotto. Dressing rooms are not provided in any area of the Grotto. It is necessary that all dressing be fully completed before arriving at the Grotto. Please see the online form.

If you should have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the Grotto Office 301-447-5318. We want your wedding day to be as beautiful and grace-filled as possible!

**APPLICATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**  
**MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY ✕ NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF LOURDES**

**Wedding Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rehearsal Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BRIDE:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been married?  no  yes If yes, how was this marriage dissolved? \_\_\_\_\_

**GROOM:** Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been married?  no  yes If yes, how was this marriage dissolved? \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE MOUNT:**  Student/Alumnus (Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_)  Faculty/Staff/Administration  Trustee

**OFFICIANT** (Priest or Deacon): Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that you must confirm the availability of your Officiant before you return this form.*

*We have reviewed the Guidelines for the Celebration of Marriage at the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes at Mount St. Mary's University. We will abide by them and instruct our wedding party and guests to do likewise.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of the Bride*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of the Groom*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

***To confirm your reservation, please return this form with the Chapel offering promptly.***

***For office use only:***

Information Mailed to Couple \_\_\_\_\_

Form and Offering Received \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of University Chaplain \_\_\_\_\_

Entered into Event Pro \_\_\_\_\_

Notification to St. Anthony's Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation Received \_\_\_\_\_

**All Preparations Completed** \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF LOURDES • MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY**

16300 OLD EMMITSBURG ROAD  
EMMITSBURG, MARYLAND 21727  
VOICE: (301) 447-5318 FAX: (301) 447-5917