



BASILICA OF SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA
 1010 Windsor Lane, Key West, FL 33040
 Phone: 305-294-1018

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
 APRIL 2026

WEDDING INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

We are honored that you have selected The Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea for your wedding. May The Lord bless you along the path to Holy Matrimony.

PLEASE NOTE that all who desire to be married at The Basilica follow the Fully Engaged Marriage preparation program as mandated by the Archbishop. Fully Engaged is designed to help you to live the Sacrament of Matrimony and includes Sunday Mass EVERY Sunday at St. Mary’s or your home parish if you do live within The Basilica boundaries, a retreat experience and Charitable Work, Natural Family Planning courses and regular meetings with the priest preparing/deacon and with the mentor couple assigned to accompany you. Fully Engaged is understood to be a nine-month journey.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY THOSE WHO ARE FREE TO MARRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH MAY CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING AT THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA. If either of you have been married before – even if only in Civil Court – it will be necessary to provide documentary evidence of nullity of the previous marriage.

NO WEDDING DATE MAY BE SET UNTIL BOTH PARTIES ARE DETERMINED BY THE PRIEST or DEACON AS FREE TO MARRY

DAYS AND TIMES FOR WEDDINGS:	USAGE DONATIONS AND FEES:				
Monday to Saturday: 11:00am; 1:00pm and 3:00pm Fridays 11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm Other times can be arranged for just cause	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Standard Donation</td> <td>\$2,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basilica Organist/Cantor</td> <td>\$400.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>The Basilica Vocalist and Organist <u>must</u> be contracted. Extra musicians and vocalists may be used with the direction and approval of The Basilica Music Director.</i></p>	Standard Donation	\$2,500.00	Basilica Organist/Cantor	\$400.00
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A \$200.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT ALONG WITH BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES ARE NECESSARY before a date may be secured in the wedding book.

All fees, donations and documents are required 30 days prior to the wedding, or the date will be cancelled. The standard donation may be made by check, credit card or cash. The deposit is considered a partial payment of the standard donation. Musician fees may be paid only by cash or check (checks must be made separately: one for the organist and one for the vocalist).

WEDDING PARTY: Dress must be respectful and in accordance with the Church environment for all wedding party members.

REHEARSAL: The couple to be married and all members of their wedding party are expected to attend and arrive on time for the wedding rehearsal. The Wedding Ministry Team will wait no longer than 15 minutes for the rehearsal to begin; after that time the Church will be closed, and the ceremony will take place without a rehearsal. *Do not be late.*

WEDDING DAY: The ceremony must begin on time. It is required that the groom arrive 45 minutes prior and bride 30 minutes prior as well as all members of the wedding party. Due to The Basilica's schedule, the Priest or Deacon will wait no longer than 15 minutes for a wedding to begin. **LATENESS MAY RESULT IN A SHORTER OR CANCELLED CEREMONY.** Weddings beginning 15 minutes after the scheduled time will proceed without Mass.

FLOWERS: Only two standard-size arrangements are allowed in The Basilica Sanctuary. No runners or carpets are permitted down the center aisle of The Basilica. No ribbons, candles or small bouquets are permitted on the pews. No rice, birdseed, flower pedals, streamers, balloons, unity candles, doves, butterflies, sand, bubbles, etc. are allowed in The Basilica or the outside property. Please note that the flower arrangements are considered a donation to The Basilica and are not to be removed from the sanctuary.

WEDDING CEREMONY: All weddings celebrated at The Basilica are celebrated according to the Order of Celebrating Holy Matrimony without additions or omissions. The Wedding Ministry Team will meet with you to prepare the Liturgy in every detail. Please remember that your wedding ceremony is a profoundly sacred and prayerful occasion. On all things we defer to Church Tradition rather than secular accretions or passing trends.

CULTURAL TRADITIONS: Rosary (Lazo); Veil (Mantilla); Arras; Flowers to the Virgin are permitted within reason.

PHOTOGRAPHY: One hour before the weddings scheduled time the photographer and videographer must meet with The Basilica Master of Ceremonies who will indicate where they can stand-center aisle for processional and recessional and left or right of the sanctuary during the ceremony. They cannot enter the sanctuary area at any time.

Flash or video lights can only be used for the bridal party's entrance and exit and not during the ceremony. Flood lighting is not permitted nor is there access to electrical outlets. The video camera must remain in a fixed (tripod) position during the ceremony and must be battery operated.

The wedding party cannot be stopped at any time for posed photographs during the entrance and exit. The Basilica will be available for 20 minutes immediately following the ceremony for group photographs, which should take place in a quiet and reverential manner. No "fun poses" are allowed at anytime nor can anyone be photographed sitting on the sanctuary steps or floor. Detailed instructions of the photographer/videographer are being provided to the couple with this form and which they agree to deliver to photographer/videographer when contracting their professional services.

THE BASILICA WEDDING MINISTRY TEAM: The Basilica Wedding Ministry Team will work with you to plan all aspects of your wedding ceremony. They will conduct the rehearsal and have the authority to make the final decision on what is allowed or not allowed for a Basilica wedding ceremony. Should the couple have a Wedding Coordinator he/she is only responsible for the **non-church** related events.

May the Lord and His Mother
Who was present at the Wedding of Cana
be present at your wedding, too!