



METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Hellenic Orthodox Church Holy Trinity



NATIONAL HISTORIC PLACE

Dear

This letter serves to confirm that _____ at _____ has been reserved for your wedding which will be solemnized at Holy Trinity Church. In order to avoid unnecessary problems and to help you in planning for your wedding, we would like to remind you of the following:

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER

1. Every couple planning to be married in a Greek Orthodox Church must attend one marriage preparation and enrichment seminar. Please see the attached list for places, dates and times. We strongly suggest that you have completed your attendance **AT LEAST TWO MONTHS** before your scheduled wedding date. Please complete the enclosed form and mail to the Metropolis Center as soon as possible. **PLEASE REMEMBER: NO COUPLE WILL BE PERMITTED BY THE METROPOLIS 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.**
It is also important for you to visit the Holy Trinity Church office to get the marriage seminar study materials. **THESE MATERIALS MUST BE READ AND FILLED OUT BY BOTH YOU AND YOUR FIANCE (E). YOU MUST BRING THE COMPLETED MATERIAL WITH YOU TO THE SEMINAR.**
2. Approximately eight (8) weeks before the wedding, you will receive your application for a diocesan marriage license. This application needs to be completed by both the bride and groom. Please return these forms to the Church office along with a check for **\$100.00** made out to **THE METROPOLIS OF BOSTON**. This fee is to help defray the cost of seminar study materials, as well as the cost of processing all the necessary marriage forms and documents.
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 Holy Trinity, 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. The non-Orthodox party must be baptized in the name of the All Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their religion must be one that is recognized by our Holy Orthodox Church. A baptismal certificate is also required for the Orthodox party if he/she was not baptized at Holy Trinity Church.

62 Lewis Street-Lowell, Mass. 01854
Church: (978) 458-8092 School: (978) 453-5422
Fax: (978) 970-0935 e-mail: HolyTrinity@netzero.com

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 the probate court will be needed. If the marriage was performed in the Orthodox Church, then a valid Ecclesiastical Divorce Decree will also be necessary. If you have any questions about either of these documents, please contact Fr. Nick at once to have your questions clarified.
6. If either bride or groom was born in Greece and was 12-years-old or older upon arrival here, they must apply to the Bishop of the Diocese in Greece in which they lived, for a document certifying that they have never been married in Greece. Please bring whatever documents apply to your situation with you when you meet with Fr. Nick.
7. Photographers and videographers must speak with Fr. Nick on the day of the wedding in regards to where would be best to set up equipment and take pictures.
8. You must apply for your Civil Marriage License one month before the wedding date. Please call the city or town hall in which you live to find out what is required for the license.
9. **REHEARSALS:** Please call the Church office, (978) 458-8092, to reserve your rehearsal date. **The fee for the organist is the bride's responsibility.**
10. **NO THROWING OF RICE** per order of the City of Lowell. We have been notified that the throwing of rice is prohibited and therefore we can no longer allow it. There is also no throwing of rice inside the Church as well. **PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS.**
11. **FINALLY.** Please remember that you are in Church and that your conduct and attire must be appropriate at all times. During rehearsals you are expected to dress and conduct yourself in a proper manner. Bridesmaids' Dresses: **NO BARE BACKS – NO STRAPLESS DRESSES without wearing some type of shawl. This rule will be STRICTLY ENFORCED.**
12. Please call the Church office with the name, address and telephone number of the person or persons who will be the koumbari (person who exchanges the stefana).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. (978) 458-8092.

Sincerely,

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PLEASE NOTE: WEDDING FEE \$100.00