



BASILICA OF ST. MICHAEL — THE ARCHANGEL —

BASILICA OF ST. MICHAEL WEDDING ATTIRE POLICY

A wedding celebrated at the Basilica is both a joyful occasion and a sacred liturgy. The clothing worn by the bride, groom, and wedding party should reflect the dignity of Christian marriage and respect for the Basilica as a consecrated place of worship.

These guidelines are not intended to impose a particular fashion or style, but to ensure that wedding attire is **formal, tasteful, and appropriately modest for a church setting**.

BRIDE

The bride's gown should be elegant and suitable for the celebration of a sacrament.

- Traditional, contemporary, and formal bridal gowns are welcome.
- Strapless, sleeveless, or off-the-shoulder gowns are permitted provided the overall design remains tasteful and provides appropriate coverage.
- Necklines should not be excessively low or revealing.
- Gowns with very sheer bodices, exposed midriffs, or designs that are primarily transparent are not appropriate.
- Extremely high slits or other features that are unnecessarily revealing are to be avoided.
- Trains and veils are welcome, provided they can be safely managed within the sanctuary and aisles.

A wedding gown does not need to be overly conservative, but it should reflect the fact that the bride is entering a church to exchange sacred vows before God.

GROOM

The groom should wear formal attire appropriate to the significance of the occasion.

Suitable attire includes:

- A tuxedo
- A formal suit with dress shirt and tie
- A military dress uniform
- Other formal cultural attire when appropriate

Casual clothing, jeans, shorts, athletic shoes, or similarly informal attire are not suitable for a wedding the Basilica. The celebration of Holy Matrimony deserves clothing that reflects its solemnity and importance.

WEDDING PARTY

Members of the wedding party should follow the same general standard of formal, tasteful, and modest attire.

For bridesmaids and other female attendants:

- Dresses may be sleeveless, strapless, or off-the-shoulder if the overall design is appropriate.
- Necklines, slits, sheer fabrics, and cutouts should remain tasteful and not be excessively revealing.
- Dresses should be appropriate for movement during the procession and participation in the liturgy.

For groomsmen and other male attendants:

- Suits, tuxedos, military dress uniforms, or comparable formal attire are appropriate.
- Attire should be coordinated with the formality of the wedding and worn properly during the liturgy.

CHILDREN IN THE WEDDING PARTY

Flower girls, ring bearers, and other children should wear age-appropriate formal clothing that allows them to participate comfortably and safely.

FINAL CONSIDERATION

Fashion varies widely, and the Basilica does not seek to regulate every detail of wedding attire. We simply ask couples to remember that **a church wedding is different from a reception, gala, or other social event. The clothing chosen should complement—not distract from—the sacred promises being made. When there is uncertainty about whether a particular gown or outfit is appropriate, couples are encouraged to contact the Basilica before making a final selection.**

Our goal is simple: that everyone who enters the Basilica for a wedding be able to celebrate the beauty of the couple, the dignity of the Sacrament of Matrimony, and the holiness of the place in which those vows are exchanged.

A VISUAL AID IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE