

Please complete the information below and provide it to the priest.

Full Name of Groom:

Phone Number:

Address:

E-mail Address:

Baptismal Name (if different):

Date and Place of Birth:

Date and Place of Baptism:

Names of Parents:

Full Name of Bride:

Phone Number:

Address:

E-mail Address:

Baptismal name (if different):

Date and Place of Birth:

Date and Place of Baptism:

Names of Parents:



**St. John Chrysostom
Albanian Orthodox Church**

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MARRIAGE

A Common Life in Christ



As a bridegroom He has set a crown on me, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels so He adorns me.

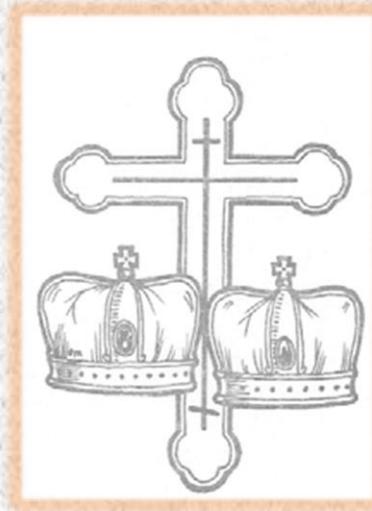
The uniting of two people into one common life is a great and holy mystery. In marriage, the bridal couple commit themselves to forget themselves in love and sacrifice for the other.

This union with its pledge of self-denying concern for someone else imitates Christ, His life, death, and generous humility for the saving of all of creation. As such, matrimony is one of those holy paths into which the Church blesses its members.

Marriage is work. If it is to be a way of sanctity, it must be so. The early fathers compare both monasticism and married life to athletic training. Both require substantial commitment and effort. The aim of both is the same—not human happiness, security, or even family; the aim of both is unity with God. This is why God gives you a spouse. This is why the Church blesses you to live one shared life.

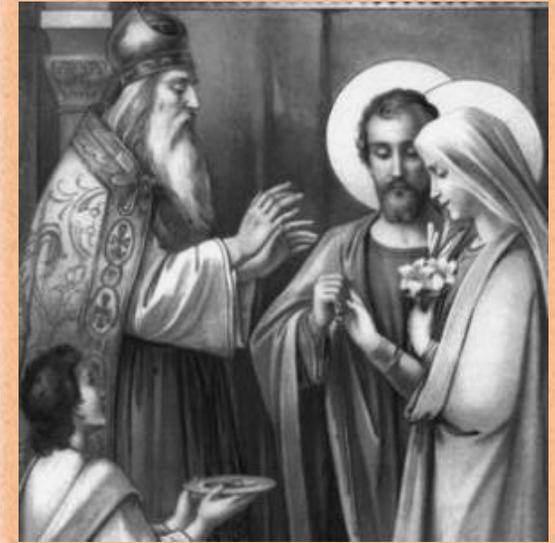
St. Nicholas Church rejoices with you as you prepare to embark on this life. If you are to live the fullness of this sacrament, you must have the Church and its Faith at the core of you. The home you wish to build together must be an extension of the Church community. This, too, requires work. As you prepare for married life, attend Church. As you experience wedded life year after year, attend Church. When you are blessed with children, attend Church and teach them to do the same. These are all things to which you pledge yourself in marriage. Your vows are to God.

May your wedding be a blessing to you; may you be a blessing to each other. May you bless the world around you together.



Practical Matters:

- ❖ ✂ It is vital that you discuss with the priest very early the date on which you hope to hold the wedding. Because the Church wishes your marriage to be a day of rejoicing, it cannot hold weddings on days of abstinence and penance.
- ❖ ✂ Work on your marriage must begin before the marriage, and this means time spent in spiritual preparation and learning. Plan to meet at least three times with the priest before the wedding. These sessions cannot be held on Sunday mornings.
- ❖ ✂ For something so important, it is necessary to start fresh and with a clear conscience. Thus, Orthodox Christians must participate in the sacrament of Confession prior to the wedding. Christians of other denominations are urged to do the same.
- ❖ ✂ You are welcome to include whomever you like in the bridal party. Your sponsors for this sacrament, however, must be of the Orthodox faith, since they also commit themselves before God and His Church to aid and support you in married life.



Please indicate below the date on which you hope to be married.
