



Guidelines for Photographers and Videographers Updated 8/2026

It is the responsibility of the host couple to ensure these guidelines are provided to and followed by their media professionals.

The host couple make their own arrangements for photography and videography.

General Expectations

St. James Cathedral is an active house of prayer. Photographers, videographers, and guests must maintain a respectful decorum consistent with the sacred nature of the space. All media professionals must follow directions provided by the Officiant and the Cathedral Wedding Coordinator and adhere to the following timeline:

- T-90 Minutes (1 hour, 30 minutes before): Florist access begins.
- T-60 Minutes: Florist setup must be completely finished.
- T-45 Minutes: All pre-ceremony photographs in the Cathedral must conclude for guests to begin arriving.
- T-30 Minutes: Photographers and videographers meet with the St. James wedding coordinator.
- T-15 Minutes: Photographs of the wedding party must be completed so attendants can be brought to their respective places in advance of the ceremony.
- 0:00: Wedding Service Begins.
- Post-Service: Post-ceremony photographs begin immediately following the service, lasting no longer than 30 minutes.

Photography Policies

Within reason, the photographer is permitted a great deal of leeway within the Cathedral. The choir loft will be open, permitting professionals that vantage point as well as the narthex (vestibule), center aisle positions behind the rear of the seated guests, and exterior areas including the courtyard. Photographers in the choir loft must promptly honor any requests from the organist or music staff to move or adjust equipment so as not to obstruct their sightlines, hearing, or performance. **At all times during the ceremony, ground-level photographers are required to stay behind the last row of seated guests. Under no circumstances may they enter the chancel/sanctuary area during the ceremony or go down the center or side aisles beyond that point. There are no exceptions.**

St. James Cathedral does not allow flash photography during the ceremony. The official photographer, family and friends should keep in mind the sacred nature of the occasion and conduct themselves accordingly.

Pre-Ceremony Photos

Wedding parties may not plan to take photographs on the Cathedral property any earlier than the allowed arrival time of one and a half hours prior to the start of the ceremony. Photos inside the Cathedral are typically not possible prior to the Wedding Ceremony. Pre-Ceremony photos may be taken in various areas around the Cathedral grounds, including the interior courtyard which is only available for photos prior to the wedding.

Post-Ceremony Photos

The time allocated for photos inside the Cathedral after the ceremony is a strict 30 minutes - provided the ceremony ended within one hour of its start time. This is due to the busy nature of the Cathedral schedule. Please be prepared to move quickly through your desired photos. We suggest the couple provide a list of their “must-have” requests the photographer prior to the wedding to make the most of the time allotted. Any photographs posed involving the Officiant should be taken first.

During the photography time after the ceremony, the photographer is the person principally charged with insuring that a respectful decorum, consistent with the sacred nature of the space, is observed by all involved. The Wedding Coordinator will be present and correct behavior as necessary. When the Wedding Coordinator has indicated that the allotted time is complete, the photographer and Wedding Party are to leave the Cathedral and remove all equipment.

Videography Policies

All video equipment must be set up no later than thirty minutes before the scheduled time of the wedding.

Video equipment must be stationary during the ceremony; no “roving” camera is permitted. To ensure the sanctity of the ceremony, videographers must be in place prior to the start of the ceremony and remain there until the ceremony is complete. Drones are also prohibited.

It is not possible to connect to the Cathedral’s sound system. If sound is a concern, wireless microphones may be placed on the host couple. Wireless microphones are not to be placed on the Officiant.

No floodlights or other special or supplemental lighting may be used during the ceremony. Nor may any wires be laid across aisles or any equipment pinned, stapled or otherwise affixed to Church walls. If absolutely necessary, stage or gaffers tape may be used.

Photographers and Videographers are required to review the guidelines and agree to the policies of the St. James Cathedral. St James Cathedral reserves the right to ask any photographer and/or videographer who violates these rules to either correct the violation immediately or to leave the premises. No exceptions will be made.