

## Unavailable Wedding Dates

Weddings may not be performed during a season of fasting.

Occasionally the excluded dates vary somewhat in different Orthodox jurisdictions; however, the following is a general guideline of the days to avoid:

- All Saturday evenings after Great Vespers;
- All Wednesdays and Fridays, unless they fall during a fast-free period;
- All evenings preceding one of the twelve Major Feasts:
- Birth of the Theotokos (September 8);
- Exaltation of the Cross (September 14);
- Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple (November 21);
- Nativity of Christ (December 25);
- Theophany (January 6);
- Meeting of our Lord in the Temple (February 2);
- Annunciation of the Theotokos (March 25);
- Transfiguration of Christ (August 6);
- Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15);
- Palm Sunday (one week before Pascha/Easter);
- Ascension of Christ (forty days after Pascha);
- Pentecost (fifty days after Pascha).

**The following times are not available for weddings because they fall within one of the extended seasons of fasting of the church year, or are connected to a particular day of fasting.**

- From the beginning of the Christmas Fast through Theophany (November 15 to January 6);
- From the week before Great Lent begins through Bright Week (the week following Pascha/Easter);
- During the Fast of the Apostles (the second Monday after Pentecost through June 29);
- During the Fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 1 through August 14);
- The evening before and the day of the Beheading of John the Baptist (August 28/29);

- The evening before and the day of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 13/14).

A wedding that is performed during one of these times must be an exception due to a grave circumstance, and requires the special permission of the Metropolitan.

### **Prohibitions on Marriages**

There are prohibitions on marriages in the Orthodox Church between couples in the following relationships:

- Parents with their own children and grandchildren;
- Brothers-in-law with sisters-in-law;
- First or second cousins;
- Aunts and uncles with nieces and nephews;
- Godparent with godchild;
- Godfather with mother of godchild;
- Godmother with father of godchild;
- Foster parents with foster child;
- Same gender relations.