

The Wedding Party

Officiants

Very Reverend Father Timothy Hojnicky

Very Reverend Father Stephen Frase

Wedding Sponsors

Dustin & Katie Bailey

Epistle Reader

Peter Young II

Thank You

Thank you for celebrating with us today.
You not only witness our commitment
to one another, and to becoming one,
but also God's revelation to the world.
You witness how Christ's sacrificial love
has transformed our lives and given us an
abiding hope and deep joy.

You here present comprise the
community of people who have blessed
our lives: providing support,
encouragement, and love. You are also
the community that will continue to
support, encourage, pray for and
celebrate with us as we embark on our
life as a married couple in union with
each other and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are so grateful that you were able to
participate in our wedding ceremony
with us. We thank God that each of you
is apart of our lives, and we look forward
to continuing to share our new life as a
married couple with you!

~ John & Kristen

The Crowning of

Kristen Lorene

Powers

&

John Aaron

Dislick

In Holy Matrimony

October 5th, 2025

Holy Apostles
Orthodox Church
Mechanicsburg, PA



The Ceremony

The wedding ceremony of the Eastern Orthodox Church is an ancient and meaningful service that has been celebrated in its present form for centuries. The service is abundant with symbols that reflect marriage: love, mutual respect, equality, and sacrifice. The ceremony consists of two parts that are distinct and separate from each other: the Betrothal and the Sacrament of Marriage. Everything in the ceremony has a special meaning and significance, especially the repetition of each act three times to symbolize and to invoke the mystical presence of the Holy Trinity.

The Betrothal

The Betrothal consists of several beautiful prayers during which the priest asks God to grant the betrothed perfect and peaceful love, salvation, and to bless them with fair children. During the Betrothal, rings are blessed over the heads of the Bride and Groom three times, after which they are placed on the fourth finger of the right hand. The exchange of rings symbolizes the unbreakable bond of Christian Marriage. Marriage is not for today or tomorrow, but forever.

The Procession

At the end of the Betrothal service, the Bride and Groom will enter the middle of the nave, led by the Priest. This procession signifies the entrance of the couple into the Kingdom of Christ, in a unique manner now, as they are joined together into one flesh.

The Sacrament of Marriage

The service of the Crowning is the wedding proper. It is comprised of multiple parts. It begins with the lighting of candles and the joining of hands. The candles symbolize the spiritual willingness of the couple to receive Christ, who will bless them through the Sacrament. As the final prayer concludes, the Priest invokes God to “join these servants, unite them in one mind and flesh.” He then places the right hand of the Groom on the right hand of the Bride. At this sacred moment, the couple is joined as husband and wife in the Eastern Orthodox Church. The hands remain joined throughout the service to symbolize the “oneness” of their love.

The Crowning

The union of the Bride and Groom is completed with the Crowning. The Priest takes the crowns from the altar table, blesses the Bride and Groom, and then places the crowns upon their heads, chanting “O Lord, our God, crown them with glory and honor.” The crowns have several meanings. The first is that the Crowning marks the beginning of a new kingdom in which the Bride and Groom reign supreme under the Divine Authority of God, Who reigns over all. In addition, the crowns symbolize the crowns of martyrdom, since every true marriage involves immeasurable self-sacrifice. Lastly, the crowns are tied with a ribbon in the back, which is a sign of their marital union. The Priest then exchange the crowns over the heads of the Bride and Groom to seal this union. The service concludes with the Epistle (Ephesians 5:20-33) and Gospel (John 2:1-11) readings.

The Common Cup

From the first miracle of the changing of water into wine at the wedding of Cana, Christ has continued to change the “water” of ordinary relationships into the “wine” of Sacramental marriage. As a token of the miracle, the Priest offers a common cup of wine, which the Bride and Groom will sip three times. This is not Holy Communion; rather it represents the common “Cup of Life.” The drinking of wine from a common cup impresses upon the couple that from that moment forward, they will share everything in life: joys as well as sorrows, and that they are to “bear one another’s burdens.” They learn that in sharing, they can experience a life of harmony. Their joys will be doubled and their sorrows halved, because they are shared.

The Dance of Isaiah

The Priest takes the Bride and Groom by the hand and leads them around the small table three times while three beautiful and joyous hymns are chanted. This procession is a celebration as the Priest leads the couple in their first steps together as a married couple. The circle symbolizes eternity. By circling around the table, the couple signifies their oath to preserve their marriage bond forever. The triple circling is in honor of the Holy Trinity.

May God Grant Them

Many Years!