

THE WEDDING OF

Katherine Mary

AND

Paul Darrah Tela

SATURDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Celebrants

Father Demetrios Gardikes
Father Christopher Zaferes

Parents of the Bride

Charles and Mary Lempke

Parents of the Groom

Bryant and Cathy Tela

Koumbaroi

Steven and Nicole Basiakos

Man of Honor

Colin Brand, Friend of the Bride

Bridesmaids

Chelsea Lempke, Sister-In-Law of the Bride
Nicole Basiakos, Friend of the Bride

Best Man

Bryant Tela, Brother of the Groom

Groomsmen

Alexander Basiakos, Godbrother of the Groom
Steven Basiakos, Godbrother of the Groom
Edward Lempke, Brother of the Bride
Philip Lempke, Brother of the Bride
Constantine Nicolozakes, Friend of the Groom
Adam Wintz, Friend of the Groom

HOLY MATRIMONY

The Wedding Ceremony of the Greek Orthodox Church unites a man and a woman together “In Faith, and in Oneness of Mind, in Truth, and in Love.” The ceremony is separated into two services: first is the Betrothal Service (the Engagement ceremony), then the Wedding Service.

THE BETROTHAL SERVICE

The Exchanging of Rings

The priest blesses the rings, taking them into his hands and making the sign of the cross over the heads of the bride and groom, then places the rings on their right hands. The right hand is used because it is the right hand of God that blesses, the right hand of the Father to which Christ ascended, and to the right that those who inherit eternal life will go. The Koumbaroi then exchange the rings three times, taking the bride's ring and placing it on the groom's finger and back again. The exchange signifies that in married life, the weakness of one partner will be compensated by the strengths of the other.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

The Candles

The bride and groom hold candles to represent the five wise maidens who brought oil to light the way of Christ. The candles symbolize the spiritual willingness of the couple to receive Christ and His blessing.

The Joining of the Right Hands

The right hands of the bride and groom are joined when the priest reads the prayer. “Join these thy servants, unite them in one mind and in one flesh.” The hands remain joined throughout the service to symbolize the oneness of the couple.

The Crowning

The Koumbaroi hold the white crowns above the heads of the bride and groom, signifying that the couple has been crowned as heads of their own kingdom. The ribbon joining the crowns symbolizes that the two are now united as one.

The Common Cup

The Crowning is followed by the Gospel reading describing the marriage of Cana and Galilee, where Jesus performed His first miracle, changing the water to wine and giving it to the newlyweds. In remembrance of his blessing, wine is given to the couple from the “common cup” of life.

The Ceremonial Walk

The bride and groom take their first steps as a married couple when the priest leads them around the table, in the Dance of Isaiah. The cross and the Gospel are placed on the table as a reminder to keep Christ at the center of their marriage. The hymn sung to the Holy Martyrs during the ceremonial walk reminds the couple of the sacrificial love they are to have for each other. The Koumbaroi follow the bride and groom as witnesses, pledging lifelong moral and spiritual support.

The Offering of the Crowns

The priest removes the crowns and places them on the Gospel book, offering the marriage to the Lord, and prays that God will receive these crowns into His Kingdom. The couple now begins their journey together in Christ at the foot of His altar. Marriage is an eternal relationship that begins in this work and is perfected in God's Kingdom (there is no “until death do us part”). In Christ, marriage is restored to its original perfection through the sacrament and becomes an eternal life of joy in union with Him.