



Agreement to reserve the gardens at Mepkin Abbey for a wedding

As a sign of the good will of the monastic community, the Superior of Mepkin Abbey, Father Joe, allows friends and neighbors of the monks to reserve the gardens for the celebration of a marriage. If you are hoping to celebrate your marriage in the gardens of the monastery, please read the following document carefully. Signing this agreement means that you understand and accept all the conditions that follow.

Weddings must be limited to **50** people or less.

To reserve the gardens we ask for a nonrefundable booking fee of \$200. When you have an approved date we ask for \$800 for the use of the gardens 30 days prior to your wedding. If there should be inclement weather or if you cancel any time up to one month before the wedding the \$800 fee will be returned.

Kindly understand that the monks themselves will not be involved in any way in your wedding and are only able to allow you the use of this space.

It is your responsibility to arrange for an officiant for the marriage, to obtain the necessary civil license, etc.

We do not allow wedding receptions at the monastery. And it is not permissible to serve food and/or beverages in the gardens as part of your wedding.

Public restrooms are located at the Reception Center which is open at the times published on the monastery website and on a sign to be found at the entrance of the Reception Center and Store. You may want to be aware of the distance from the gardens to the Reception Center and inform your guests. We do not have a place for people to change their clothing.

The gardens are the only place you may arrange for a wedding at the monastery. We are not able to provide an alternate place should there be inclement weather.

Coming to have your wedding at our monastery means that you understand this is our home and not a public park. This is private property which has a specific and religious purpose. We are a group of men who believe God has called us to a very specific way of life centered on faith and prayer. An aspect of our life is to offer hospitality and occasionally allowing friends and neighbors to celebrate a wedding in the gardens has become one way for us to show such hospitality.

We hope you can understand that the gardens are a place of serenity and peace for a great number of people who come apart to reflect on God’s love for God’s people. Some need the quiet and beauty because of tensions or struggles or the hectic pace of their lives. We hope you will keep this in mind when inviting your guests to share this day with you.

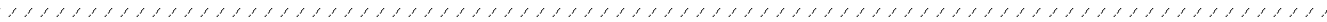
Because many have experienced the peace and serenity of the gardens and want to help us provide this oasis for others, we are fortunate to have a large number of volunteers who generously give of their time to help us maintain and care for the garden. We do not have staff to “freshen” the garden for your day. The garden is available “as is” and we ask that you leave the garden as you found it. If you bring anything in, please take it out.

Experience has taught us that tent poles and spikes tear up the lawns and it takes weeks to restore that damage. Therefore, we cannot allow tents. Sadly, we have had the experience of people using vehicles in this area and tearing up the lawns in such a way that it took quite a while to restore the areas that were damaged. For this reason, parking areas will be clearly designated and we ask you not to drive beyond the indicated areas.

We do recommend that you have a family member or a friend stationed by the entry gate of the monastery to guide your guests to the site in the gardens you have selected for your wedding. This person will be able to inform the guests about the location of rest rooms and answer their questions.

Our hope is that having your wedding on our monastery property will contribute something special to your wedding day and to your married life. All who choose to express their commitment in marriage on our grounds are in our prayers.

If you would like to reserve the gardens understanding what we have outlined above, kindly fill out the information requested and return this document to us with your signatures.



We understand and accept the conditions specified to use the gardens at Mepkin Abbey for our wedding to be held on _____ Time _____

Bride

Tel _____

Email _____

Address _____

Sign _____

Groom

Tel _____

Email _____

Address _____

Sign _____