

# *Holy Wisdom Monastery*

## 2025 Wedding Handbook



*Jim Vondruska*

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Holy Wisdom Monastery  
4200 County Road M  
Middleton, WI 53562  
[www.holywisdommonastery.org](http://www.holywisdommonastery.org)

## Introduction

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Holy Wisdom Monastery is the home and workplace of Benedictine Women of Madison, an ecumenical monastic community. **By holding your wedding at Holy Wisdom Monastery, you are supporting our mission** to weave prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life.

The following guidelines have been established to enhance the respectful use of the facility during wedding ceremonies and to make your day as special as possible.

### ***Scheduling a Wedding:***

Couples may schedule any four-hour time block for a wedding ceremony. This time block may be anytime between the hours of 8 am to 9 pm. Weddings are *not* scheduled at Holy Wisdom Monastery during Holy Week, on Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve through New Year's Day.



*Capture the Moment by Kristel Stephany*

Our standard reception package allots an additional four hours in addition to the four hours dedicated to the ceremony and must also conclude by 9 pm. Alternatively, an extended weekend wedding package that permits later receptions is available upon request.

### ***Requesting Additional Time:***

If you find that a four-hour/8-hour time block is not enough time for your ceremony and/or reception, you may schedule additional time (non-refundable) at the rate of \$150 per hour. If a wedding runs over the allotted time, the couple will be responsible for paying the additional time used, and this fee may be deducted from their damage deposit.

### ***Scheduling Your Rehearsal:***

A one-hour rehearsal is held the evening prior to the day of the wedding. Please have all guests in attendance 15 minutes prior to the assigned start time.

### ***Wedding Coordinator:***

Holy Wisdom Monastery will have a professional wedding coordinator available to oversee or assist with the rehearsal and the wedding.

### ***Wedding Officiant:***

Couples must arrange for an officiant on their own. Any officiant is welcome.

### ***Music:***

It is the couple's responsibility to contact and pay the musicians whom you wish to play or sing at your ceremony. The monastery's piano and organ may be used at no additional cost. The Assembly Room and Guest Dining Room also have a built-in sound system that couples can use.

### ***Rehearsal Dinners:***

Wedding rehearsal dinners are usually held in the main monastery building's gathering area, guest dining room and patio. These areas combined accommodate up to 200 guests. Rehearsal dinners immediately follow wedding rehearsals and must conclude by 9 pm. Please schedule this separately with the guest services manager.

Rehearsal Dinner Fee: \$560+food/beverages costs

## **Location Options for Ceremonies**

### ***Assembly Room:***

The Assembly Room is the main chapel in the monastery building and has a capacity of 300 people. The chairs are set up in an octagon that reflects the shape of the room. Included in the wedding fee is the Assembly Room, two dressing rooms, the use of the gathering area next to the Assembly Room for your guests to socialize before and after the ceremony and the assistance of a monastery wedding coordinator to guide the rehearsal and the ceremony. Holy Wisdom also has air conditioning and ample parking for your guests. Live streaming service is available for an additional fee of \$100.

*Sandy Wojtal-Weber*



*Ashley Bohman Photography*



### ***Outdoor Ceremonies:***

The Lake Lawn, which overlooks the 10,000-year-old glacial Lost Lake, is a beautiful option for an outdoor wedding. The space seats up to 300. The wedding coordinator can show this location to the couple during a tour of the facility.

If a couple decides they would like to hold their ceremony outside, but the weather does not cooperate, the ceremony can be moved inside to the

Assembly Room at no extra charge. Couples choosing to use the Lake Lawn for their ceremony will need to provide a sound system and chairs for their guests.



## Location Options for Receptions

### ***Outdoor Receptions:***

The **Lake Lawn**, which overlooks the 10,000-year-old glacial Lost Lake, is a beautiful option for an outdoor reception. The space seats up to 250. If a couple decides they would like to hold their reception outside, but the weather does not cooperate, the reception can be moved inside to the Guest Dining Room for an additional \$310 fee. The **Monastery Patio** is also another great option for a reception. This space is located directly off our Guest Dining Room and next to our Assembly Room, on the main level of the monastery. The patio overlooks Lake Mendota and the ground surrounding the monastery. It can seat up to 100 guests and has a built-in fire pit to enjoy. If a couple decides they would like to hold their reception outside, but the weather does not cooperate, the reception can be moved inside to the Guest Dining Room for no additional cost. Couples choosing to use the Lake Lawn or Monastery Patio for their reception will need to provide a sound system, tent, tables, chairs, linens etc. for their guests.

*Sandy Wojtal-Weber*



### ***Indoor Receptions:***

The **Monastery Guest Dining Room** is located on the main floor of the monastery building. This room has a built-in sound system, and chairs and tables are provided. The adjacent patio with fire pit is available to enjoy. A bank of large picture windows extends across one side of the room and offers stunning views of the grounds surrounding the monastery. The Guest Dining Room is adjacent to the Gathering Area, a large open reception area for mingling. The dining room/gathering area can seat up to 200. Couples choosing to use the Monastery Guest Dining Room for their reception will need to provide linens for their guest tables, if desired.

## Food and Beverages:

Bringing food and drinks for only the wedding party (such as bottled water, sandwiches, or snacks) is allowed. Please note: all trash, food, water bottles, etc. must be cleaned up within your time block. A refrigerator is not available for food or beverages.

### ***Holy Wisdom Monastery Catering:***

Holy Wisdom Monastery has a professional chef on staff that may be available to prepare food for your event. We have a vast selection of culinary options available for you to choose from and we can meet most medical dietary and food allergy requirements. All choices are price-pointed at a standard rate. Please see our menu selections for more details. If you have a special request, you may work individually with our chef to design your own meal which would start at our respective price point and may possibly increase depending on your request(s). All food is served buffet-style.

Cost determined by culinary selections. Menu coming soon. Holy Wisdom Monastery does not charge tax. Gratuity, although appreciated by our staff, is not expected.

Desserts are included with all menu options. Guests are welcome to bring in desserts. Holy Wisdom does not discount menu selections in consideration of brought-in items.

Holy Wisdom provides cutting and serving of brought-in desserts, which includes all serving and eating utensils and wares. Guests may avoid this fee and plan to cut and serve desserts themselves. However, guests need to bring in their own utensils and service-ware. In this scenario, Holy Wisdom recommends the use of disposable eating utensils, plates and napkins as outside dishes and utensils may not be washed on site.

Brought-in Dessert Service:           \$1.50 per person  
Brought-in Dessert Self Service:   \$0.00

Due to food-handling issues, all leftover food items prepared by Holy Wisdom Monastery are the property of the monastery and will remain onsite at the conclusion of events.

### ***Beverages:***

Meals provided by Holy Wisdom Monastery include regular and decaf coffee, a selection of hot tea and ice water. If you would like an additional selection of iced tea and/or lemonade, a beverage bar may be requested.

Beverage Bar Set Up:               \$140  
Per person fee:                       \$3

### ***Alcohol:***

Holy Wisdom Monastery does not own a liquor license. However, alcohol may be served during the event as long as the event is a private event not open to the public. Alcohol consumption must be done in an appropriate and respectful way in keeping with the monastery's policies. Due to state and local laws, Holy Wisdom Monastery and its staff cannot provide, handle, serve or pour any alcoholic beverages. Absolutely no alcohol may be served to guests under the age of 21. Cash bars are not allowed.

All alcohol and any glassware must be provided by the host and should be delivered to the monastery during the host's chosen time block. Outside glassware may not be washed on-site.

Since Holy Wisdom Monastery staff cannot be involved in the service of alcoholic beverages, it is requested that hosts designate individuals to dispose of beverages partially consumed and left behind by guests throughout the event.

For a fee, Holy Wisdom Monastery will provide same day refrigeration, set-up with a table and linen, cleaning, corkscrews, ice and ice bins. ***Any event serving alcohol is required to pay this fee.***

Alcoholic Beverage Set Up Fee:   \$510

## ***Outside Vendor Catering:***

Facility users are allowed to use Holy Wisdom Monastery catering or an outside caterer. If you opt to use an outside caterer, a kitchen/facility use fee will be charged to cover the cost for the caterer to use the facility during the event. **Please note:** no cooking should be done at HWM. Kitchen use is for staging and final preparations only. Due to safety issues, the dishwasher and refrigerators may not be used at any time. Caterers should be prepared to stay on-site for food setup, serving, take down and clean up. HWM staff is not provided to assist with these needs.



*Ueda Photography*

Caterers must be approved by HWM. Guests are welcome to bring in desserts, but they must be pre-packaged or prepared professionally. Guests may not bring in home-prepared items. Potlucks are not allowed.

Holy Wisdom Monastery does not provide utensils, cookware, dishware, flatware or beverage containers for outside caterers. Paper products such as disposable cups, paper plates, serving ware, plastic utensils or napkins are not available.

All food provided by outside caterers should have place cards identifying the name of the catering company at all food serving tables.

Any HWM equipment removed by the caterer must be returned within 48 hours or the host of the event will be assessed a \$1,000 fine and the caterer will not be allowed to use the HWM kitchen in the future.

HWM does not provide linens or place settings for outside vendor-catered events. Any linens, place settings, decorations or additional table rental is the responsibility of the host.

Outside Caterer Kitchen use Fee:	\$450, up to 50 people
	\$550, 51 -100 people
	\$650, 101 + (maximum of 200 people)

Outside Catering	
Refundable Damage Deposit:	\$500

## ***Additional Labor Fee:***

For receptions with 126-200 guests, an additional labor fee is required to cover labor for kitchen work, setup, and cleaning.

Additional Labor Fee:	\$228
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## **Wedding Menu:**

### **Appetizers - \$7.50 per person (pick 2)**

*Each additional appetizer +\$3 per person*

**Seasonal Sliced Fresh Fruit Platter** - Variety of seasonal fresh fruit and berries. (Vegan, GF)

**Wisconsin Cheese Platter with Crackers** - Variety of cheddar, Swiss, pepperjack, Colby and provolone, served with assorted crackers (Vegetarian). + \$1.25 per person to add Genoa Salami and Soppressata.

**Crudit  Platter** - Variety of fresh carrots, celery, broccoli, cauliflower, and cherry tomato served with a house made herb dip. (Vegetarian/GF)

**Antipasto Platter** - Genoa salami, soppressata, provolone cheese, black and green olives, marinated artichokes, and cherry tomatoes. (GF)

**Mediterranean Platter** - House made roasted garlic hummus, kalamata olives, cucumber, pita chips and marinated feta. (Vegetarian)

### **Entr es - \$24.75 per person**

Choice of two entr es, two sides (one starch and one vegetable), tossed salad with dressing, La Brea Bakery sourdough rolls with butter, choice of dessert, water, and coffee. Additional sides +\$1.25 per person, per side.

**Breakfast menu available upon request.**

### **Beef**

#### **Braised Burgandy Beef Roast (GF)**

Local Midwest beef seared and braised with red wine, caramelized vegetables and fresh herbs.

Served with a rich beef stock gravy.

#### **Burgandy Braised Sirloin Tips (+\$2 per person) (GF)**

*Fresh cut sirloin tips seared, braised in burgundy wine, caramelized onions, garlic cloves and fresh herbs. Served with a rich beef stock gravy.*

#### **Braised Beef Short Ribs (+\$2.50 per person) (GF)**

*Seared and braised beef short ribs served with a beef and cremini mushroom demi glaze.*

### **Chicken**

#### **Bone in Chicken Arroser with White Wine Pan Sauce (+1.50 per person) (GF)**

*Pan seared and marinated bone in chicken breast served with caramelized vegetables and a white wine pan sauce.*

#### **Chicken Chasseur (GF)**

*Seared and marinated bone in chicken that is braised slowly in a cremini mushroom and white wine cream sauce.*

#### **Seared Rosemary Citrus Chicken Breast served with Mornay (GF)**

*Seared and marinated boneless chicken breast served with a freshly grated white cheese and cream sauce.*

#### **Seared Herb Mustard Chicken (GF)**

*Mustard and fresh herb marinated boneless chicken breast that is served with a pan sauce.*

### **Pork**

#### **Slow Roasted Rosemary Mustard Pork Loin (GF)**

*Pork loin marinated in mustard and fresh rosemary, slow roasted and sliced thin. Served with a pan sauce.*

**Center Cut Rosemary Mustard Pork Chop (GF)**

*Center cut pork chops marinated in mustard and fresh rosemary, seared, and served with a pan sauce.*

**Sliced Oven Roasted Ham (GF)**

*Whole ham braised in red wine, brown sugar, sliced oranges and cranberries. Sliced thin to serve.*

**Seafood**

**Door County Style Butter Braised White Fish (GF)**

*Whitefish braised in Wisconsin butter, white wine and fresh herbs. Served with fresh sliced lemon and house made tartar sauce.*

**Pan Seared Salmon Fillets (+\$2.50 per person) (GF)**

*Fresh cut and marinated Salmon fillets pan seared and finished in the oven. Served with fresh sliced lemon and a house made remoulade sauce.*

**Pesto Shrimp and Penne Pasta (+\$2 per person)**

*Sauteed Shrimp, blistered cherry tomatoes and house made basil pesto tossed with penne pasta and asiago cheese.*

**Vegan/Vegetarian**

**Stuffed Peppers (Vegan)**

*Barley and lentil stuffed bell peppers served with a fragrant, slow cooked house made tomato sauce made with fresh herbs, garlic and caramelized vegetables.*

**Eggplant Parmigiana (Vegetarian)**

*Sliced, breaded and baked eggplant topped with house made basil marinara, parmesan and mozzarella cheese.*

**Vegetarian Lasagna (Vegetarian)**

*Spinach and mozzarella cheese layered lasagna with house made basil marinara and parmesan cheese.*

**Mushroom Bourguignon (Vegan/GF)**

*Cremini mushrooms simmered with pearl onions, red wine and caramelized vegetables served as a bourguignon-style stew.*

**Starch Choices**

Seasoned Baked Potatoes

Rosemary Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes

Rosemary Roasted Sweet Potatoes

Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes (vegan option available)

Herbed Rice Pilaf

Herbed Quinoa Pilaf

Steamed Long Grain Basmati Rice

Steamed Brown Rice

Macaroni and Cheese



## **Vegetable Choices**

Steamed Mixed Seasonal Vegetables

Steamed Broccoli

Oven Roasted Green Beans

Summer Corn Sautee

Roasted Winter Squash

## **Dessert Choices**

Lemon Bars

Brownies

Chocolate Chip Cookies (GF available)

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Chocolate Torte (GF)

Seasonal Fresh Fruit (GF)

**\*All prices listed subject to change.**

## Fees and Payments

### **Total fee for ceremony:**

#### **Assembly Room (Indoor) Ceremony Fee:**

\$1,760 + \$250 refundable damage deposit

#### **Lake Lawn (Outdoor) Ceremony Fee:**

\$1,860 + \$250 refundable damage deposit

### **Total fee for reception:**

#### **Dining Room (Indoor) Reception Fee:**

\$1,380 + \$320 refundable damage deposit + Food/Beverage costs

#### **Monastery Patio (Outdoor) Reception Fee:**

\$1,380 + \$320 refundable damage deposit + Food/Beverage costs

#### **Lake Lawn (Outdoor) Reception Fee:**

\$1,780 + \$320 refundable damage deposit + Food/Beverage costs

#### **Late Night Reception Fee (End Time Between 9:00-11:00pm, Indoor or Outdoor):**

Additional \$3,562 (includes access to all overnight rooms in Retreat and Guest House)

*All rates are subject to change.*

*\*Holy Wisdom Monastery Sunday Assembly members receive a 10% discount.\**

### **Damage Deposit:**

The damage deposit will be returned within 30 days after the wedding if there is no additional cleanup, extended times or damage to the equipment or facility caused by the couple, guests or contracted vendors. Additional charges may be incurred if the cost to repair the damage is more than the original damage deposit. An itemized bill will be submitted to the couple for reimbursement.

### **Reservation Fee:**

A **non-refundable reservation fee**, which is 50% of the total ceremony fee and/or reception fee, plus the damage deposit(s), is required with the Ceremony & Reception Reservation Form when reserving the date.

- If after 10 business days the deposit has not been received, the reservation will be removed from our calendar.

### **Final Payment:**

The balance of all fees must be paid **two weeks prior to the wedding**.

## Rules and Guidelines for Using the Monastery Facilities

### **Setup:**

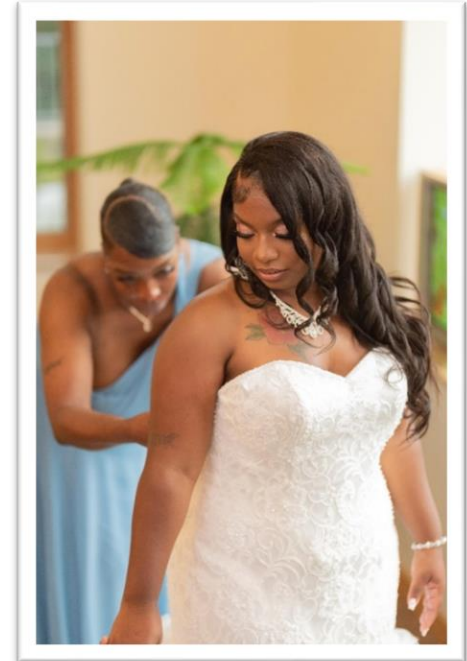
All set up and tear down must be done within your reserved time slot. The couple is responsible for designating friends or family members who will install and remove the decoration before and after the ceremony and/or reception. All décor must be removed from Holy Wisdom on the day of the ceremony. You may schedule additional time (non-refundable) at the rate of \$150 per hour if you feel you might need more time.

The organ and piano may not be moved in the Assembly Room. Up to two sections of chairs may be removed or rearranged for a \$310 fee.

### **Dressing Rooms:**

Separate dressing rooms with private bathrooms will be provided for the couple and their attendants at no additional fee.

*Jim Ponce*



*Jim Ponce*

### **Wedding Arch:**

We offer a wedding arch for use during outdoor weddings as a backdrop for the couple. Flowers or greens can be attached to the arch using twist ties or pipe cleaners. The rental fee for the arch is \$160.

### **Florists:**

The couple may use the florist of their choice. Arrangements for flowers are the responsibility of the couple. The couple is responsible for coordinating the delivery and removal of all flowers within the ceremony time block.

### **Hanging Decorations and Signs:**

No tacks, staples, nails, wire, glue, sticky tape, screws, pins or gum may be used on the walls, floor, woodwork, chairs or furnishings. The monastery is decorated during the season of Advent, Christmas and Easter. Once these decorations are in place, they are not to be removed until after the end of the season, but the couple may incorporate them into their wedding scheme.

### **Candles:**

Couples must provide their own candles for the ceremony, including a unity candle and tapers. Due to fire codes and safety issues, there shall be no candelabras or candles standing in the aisles or fastened to chairs. The unity candle and two side tapers do not need to be enclosed with a glass hurricane as long as they remain on the altar.

**Rental Equipment:**

Outdoor weddings/receptions must arrange for the rental of chairs, tables, tents, sound system/microphones, etc., if needed. You may contract with a rental service of your choice. Because this facility does not have room to store equipment for the following day, all rental equipment must be delivered and picked up on the day of the ceremony. These items may not be left or stored at Holy Wisdom Monastery beyond the reserved time block. For outdoor receptions, a rental company may pick up equipment the following day upon request. Some exceptions apply.

***Rice, Birdseed, Glitter, Flower Petals, Sand and Confetti:***

Rice, birdseed, glitter, real flower petals, sand and confetti may not be used in and around the monastery. A flower girl may drop artificial flower petals down the center aisle which must be picked up after the ceremony. Outside the monastery you may blow bubbles, light sparklers, release butterflies or anything else approved by your Holy Wisdom Monastery wedding coordinator and is environmentally-friendly.

***Audio/Visual Equipment:***

The use of the sound system and microphones for indoor weddings are included in the ceremony fee. Recorded music from CDs and MP3 players can be broadcast through the monastery sound system. Holy Wisdom Monastery staff does not play recorded music during ceremonies. You will need to designate a guest to cue and play music on the sound system. Outdoor weddings must provide their own sound system and microphones. The guest dining room has a retractable projection screen that guests may use to run a DVD, show videos or a PowerPoint presentation for an additional \$55

***Tobacco Usage:***

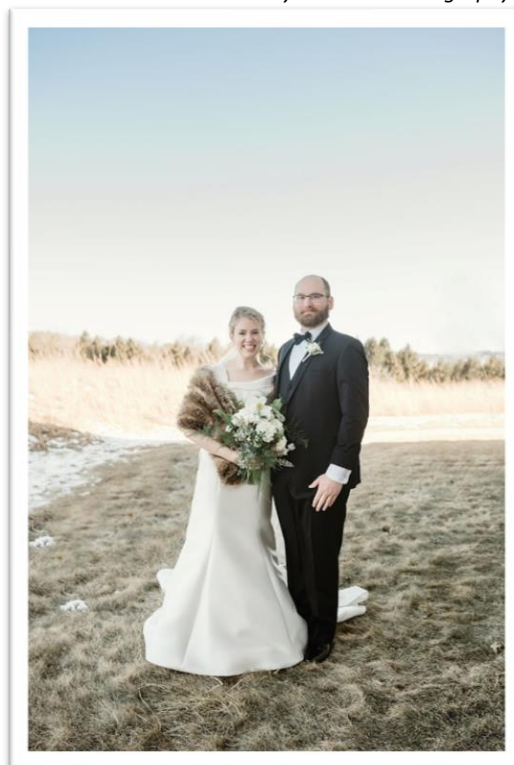
Smoking is not permitted in the buildings or outside on the grounds. Please make sure your guests are aware of the no smoking policy.

***Marriage License:***

A valid marriage license, issued by the state of Wisconsin, and acceptable for use in Dane County must be brought to the rehearsal or wedding. Your officiant will fill out the license, your two witnesses sign it, and then the officiant sends it to the Dane County Clerk's office. The marriage license is then processed and becomes your wedding certificate.

For couples that live in Dane County or from another state, a marriage license may be procured by contacting the Dane County Clerk's Office in the City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Madison, WI / 608-266-4124.

*Ashley Bohman Photography*



For couples that reside in a different Wisconsin county, you are required to apply for the license in the county in which you live. After the ceremony, the license will be filed in Dane County.

**\*\*\*Holy Wisdom is in the Township of Westport\*\*\***

### **Questions:**

If you have further questions about reserving Holy Wisdom for your wedding or ceremony or would like to set up an appointment for a tour of Holy Wisdom Monastery, please contact Brooke Miller, guest services manager, at [blivingston@holywisdommonastery.org](mailto:blivingston@holywisdommonastery.org) (preferred), or 608-836-1631 x 100.



*Capture the Moment by Kristel*







*Holy Wisdom Monastery*  
**2025 Wedding Reservation Form**

**Assembly Room (Indoor) Ceremony Fee:**

☐ \$1,760 + \$250 refundable damage deposit

**Lake Lawn (Outdoor) Ceremony Fee:**

☐ \$1,860 + \$250 refundable damage deposit

**Monastery Guest Dining Room (Indoor) Reception Fee:**

☐ \$1,380 + \$320 refundable damage deposit

**Lake Lawn (Outdoor) Reception Fee:**

☐ \$1,780 + \$320 refundable damage deposit

**Monastery Patio (Outdoor) Reception Fee:**

☐ \$1,380 + \$320 refundable damage deposit

*(check all that apply)*

50% of Ceremony and/or Reception Fee + Damage Deposit/s is required to confirm reservation.

Please complete this form and return with **non-refundable deposit** and **damage deposit** to:

Holy Wisdom Monastery, Attention: Weddings, 4200 County Road M, Middleton, WI 53562

*Make checks payable to Benedictine Women of Madison*

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Rehearsal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated # of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Rehearsal Time (ONE HOUR): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Ceremony Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Dinner Time (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Time Block (anything over included time (4 or 8 hours) is \$150 per hour): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please reserve for us:**

- ☐ Live Streaming Service (for indoor weddings only, \$100)
- ☐ Wedding Arch (for outdoor weddings, \$160)
- ☐ Additional hours: (\$150 each hour x \_\_\_\_\_ hours)
- ☐ Projector (\$55)

*\*You may not arrive earlier or stay later than your chosen time block unless you pay for additional hours. When determining the time of the ceremony, please consider the time needed for decorating, dressing, guest arrival, picture taking before and after the wedding and cleanup after the wedding.\**

**Couple information:****Name 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and address where the damage deposit should be mailed after the wedding:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**How you heard about Holy Wisdom Monastery?      If you found us on the Internet, what site?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Wedding Contract:**

We have read the Holy Wisdom Monastery Wedding/Ceremony Handbook and agree to abide by all guidelines and policies as stated. The receipt of your initial deposit and signed contract holds your reservation at Holy Wisdom Monastery. Benedictine Women of Madison, Inc. reserves the right to cancel this agreement in the event the deposit has not been received after 10 days from when the original agreement was sent. If the event is cancelled by the couple, the deposit is non-refundable. Final payment and participant count is due two weeks before the wedding.

If property damage occurs during the rehearsal, ceremony, or reception, we agree to reimburse Holy Wisdom Monastery for such damages. The undersigned agrees to hold Holy Wisdom Monastery harmless of any claims, losses or damage that result from activities during the rehearsal, ceremony, and/or reception, by the undersigned, their guests and any other parties participating in the wedding.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date