

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage preparation is mandatory for every couple wanting to be married in the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Sacramento and at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The seriousness of entering a Christian marriage requires the utmost diligence and willingness to be prepared in the best possible way.

DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED

(These forms are required from all couples being married here)

1. PERSONAL & WITNESS TESTIMONY FORM

The engaged couple provides information regarding identity, status in the church, and freedom to marry. This form must be filled out **in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon or official auditor of the church.**

The Church also provides a form for the parents of the couple, confirming the information provided by the couple. If the parents are deceased or not available, a close friend or relative who has known the person since the age of twelve (12) may complete the form. This form must also be filled out **in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon or official auditor of the church.** Two witnesses are necessary for each party (i.e., total of four).

2. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

Catholics and any baptized Christians must provide recently issued copies of their baptismal certificates (**by "recent" is meant dated within the last six (6) months.**) This is a standard procedure in the Church. Baptismal certificates can be obtained by either calling or writing the church where the individual was baptized. Ask that a copy be sent directly to St. Francis of Assisi Parish addressed to: Wedding Coordinator, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1066 26th Street, Sacramento CA 95816-4853

3. DISPENSATION & PERMISSIONS

If one of the engaged couple is a baptized non-Catholic, an **Application for Matrimonial Permission** is required; if one of the engaged couple is not baptized Christian, **an Application for Matrimonial Dispensation is required** (the priest preparing you for marriage will see that these permissions or dispensations are received).

4. MARRIAGE LICENSE

The couple must present a valid California Marriage License to the Church **at the rehearsal.**

ECUMENICAL CONCERNS

- A. Official witnesses of the marriage may be non-Catholic.
- B. With the appropriate permissions, a non-Catholic minister may be invited to participate in the Catholic marriage service.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. TIME OF CEREMONY

Weddings are celebrated only on Saturdays to allow for maximum building use. **Weddings are scheduled for 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. No changes in these times are allowed.**

2. REHEARSAL

To familiarize the wedding party with the procession, the sanctuary, ushering and other elements of the celebration, you will need to schedule a rehearsal. The rehearsal usually lasts at least one hour and everyone that has a part in the wedding should be in attendance. The rehearsals are scheduled on the Friday evening before the day of the wedding.

3. CHURCH DECORATIONS

Some decorations are permitted. Setting them up and cleaning them up is your responsibility. Please check with the Wedding Coordinator as to when and what you may set up for your decorations. Aisle runners are not permitted.

Seasonal parish decorations may not be taken down or moved for any reason.

4. FLOWERS

Please check with the Wedding Coordinator. Have your florists work with your Wedding Coordinator as to the placement of flowers. No flowers are to be placed on the altar table but may be around the altar. **No flower petals (real or artificial) are to be strewn down the aisle at any time by anyone.**

5. FACILITIES FOR DRESSING

Brides may use the "Brides Room" near the restrooms at the side of the church. The Wedding Coordinator will show you the room after your rehearsal. Cleaning up immediately after the wedding is your responsibility. If there is another wedding scheduled after yours, you will be asked to clear the room 15 minutes before you leave for your ceremony. We have no dressing facilities for men except the men's restroom. All items left in these rooms are at your own risk. Nothing should be left in the room the night before the wedding.

6. PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

The use of photography in a wedding ceremony has to be handled sensitively. Often it causes friction and hard feelings because individuals hold opposing views of what a marriage liturgy is meant to be. The Christian understanding is that the wedding is an act of worship, which has its own unique relation to time. A photograph album, a video tape, a sound track, all can be precious reminders of the sacredness of the moment in which a couple pledged their lives to each other, and can even sustain their love through difficult periods of marriage in later years.

These, however, are not to interrupt the flow of the liturgy. Videographers must remain stationary and may at no time be in the center aisle. They may not use flood or spotlights.

Professional photographers pride themselves on their ability to be unobtrusive. More troubling are amateurs who appear inappropriately and destroy the impact of the most solemn moments. Please advise the wedding coordinator if you are going to have the ceremony videotaped. **We insist on courtroom decorum for the photographers.**

The sanctuary is not to become a studio for photograph sessions. If photos are taken before the liturgy nothing is to be moved in the Church for the purpose of photographs. The altar and lectern are never to be moved for photographic sessions preceding or following the ceremony. If the side-chapel is used for pictures, the chairs must be moved back into their original positions.

Engaged couples are encouraged to have pictures taken before the ceremony so that they may be present to the guests after the liturgy. Pictures should cease thirty minutes before the liturgy begins to provide time for setting a prayerful atmosphere. If pictures are taken after the ceremony, allow enough time so that the picture taking will not interfere with other scheduled activities. Should your ceremony run long, you will have to take your after-wedding pictures outside.

7. PARKING

We suggest you let your guests know that we have a free parking lot behind the church. Parking on the streets is metered from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday.

8. THROWING RICE

Rice, birdseed or confetti are not allowed to be thrown after weddings; they are potential hazards to persons and animals. We appreciate your cooperation in this. Nothing may be scattered or thrown (real or silk) during the wedding ceremony due to carpet stains and lack of time for clean up.

9. CLEAN-UP

The engaged couple is responsible for clean-up including; collecting leftover programs, bows, flower boxes and any other debris after the ceremony. Well ahead of time, the engaged couple should designate trustworthy persons to be responsible for clean up. There will be an additional fee of \$25.00 paid to the wedding coordinator should the church not be cleaned up after the ceremony.

10. ALCOHOL

No alcohol is allowed in or around the church building or bride's room. Use of alcohol or drugs by the persons to be married impairs the validity of a marriage. Any others attending under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises regardless of their relationship to the bride and groom. If there is drinking in or about the Church or the bride or groom is under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the wedding the wedding will be cancelled.

11. RECEPTIONS

The Parish Hall is available for your use. There are required rental and cleaning deposit fees. The Diocese of Sacramento also requires Liability Insurance. Please call Plant Manager, Joe Prassa at 443-8084, Ext. 107 for further information.

12. FEES

For **registered and contributing parishioners of at least 1 year** the church donation is \$ 800.00. For all others persons choosing to marry at St. Francis Church, the donation is \$1,200. At the time a date is assigned to you, a \$250.00 NON REFUNDABLE deposit is required. The entire fee must be been paid in full at least one month before the wedding. The donation for the use of the church does not include a stipend for the presider of your marriage or the church wedding coordinator, or musicians. The customary stipend for the presider is at least \$150.00. The church wedding coordinator's fee is \$150.00, due and payable at the rehearsal. For marriage prep only for destination weddings, the fee is \$150. For marriage prep with Convalidation weddings in St. Clare's Chapel, the fee is \$200.00.

LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

Planning the liturgical celebration is an essential part of the preparation for the wedding day. This planning must consider not only the preferences of the engaged couple but also the values and needs of the Church: the community which will gather to celebrate, the parish in which the celebration will occur, the priest or presiding deacon and the various liturgical ministers involved in the celebration (readers, musicians, ushers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers). These liturgical guidelines are presented to supplement the general norms for wedding celebrations found in the Catholic Church's official Rite of Marriage. They are meant to assist the engaged couple and the presiding minister in planning the wedding ceremony.

- A. Ideally, a liturgy has a central message which focuses attention for that liturgy so that those participating will share in a definite, discernible experience of faith. Obviously, it will not be an exclusive focus, but it will be a dominant, recurring message which will clearly stand out and make an impression.

Rather than simply have a celebration about love, couples should identify the specific characteristic of their love; commitment, loving for a lifetime, love as service, etc. This message should be expressed through the music, visual decorations, scripture readings, and the homily. It should also guide the selection of the prayers and blessings, the responses, and other specific elements.

- B. The marriage ritual offers options within the ceremony. The presiding priest or deacon will help you to make these choices.
- C. The time for a wedding must respect the other regularly scheduled events in the church. Scheduling should allow adequate time for unhurried celebration, social gathering, the taking of photographs and cleaning up.
- D. Catholic marriage is an act of worship. The parish church reflects both the sacredness of the event and a realization that it is an act of the Christian community. Only the bishop can give permission to hold a wedding celebration outside the parish church; such permission is seldom granted in this diocese.
- E. Wedding programs for the assembly are recommended. They should be carefully designed to include the order of service and responses of the liturgy in their proper dimensions.

F. **Seasonal church decorations may not be taken down or moved for any reason.**

Lent 2017 begins Wednesday, March 1 and ends Saturday, April 15, 2017.

For weddings during Lent, the “Alleluia” is omitted from the liturgy, the sparse environment of the season is respected (an abundance of flowers and decorations would not be appropriate), and the music should be subdued and reflective of the season.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

Particular decisions about choice and placement of wedding music within the liturgy should be rooted in the three judgments proposed in *Music in Catholic Worship*:

1. The liturgical judgment: Does the music's text, form, placement and style fit the nature of the liturgy?
2. The musical judgment: Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good?
3. The pastoral judgment: Will the music help this assembly to pray?

In any liturgy, the assembly is meant to take part as active participants rather than passive spectators. The music in a liturgy should enable the assembly to play its rightful role. Music in liturgy is not meant to be a performance but a means of involvement or at least a background, which enhances prayer. There is to be no taped music played during the ceremony.

The following are a few of the talented musicians that regularly play for weddings at St. Francis.

Tim Mascarinas, Parish Music Director 443-8084 X103

TimM@stfrancisparish.com

(Organist & pianist)

(Area Code 916)

Janet Stites	731-5408	(pianist)	janetstites@earthlink.net
Robert Brinzer	408-210-8222	(organist & pianist)	Robert.Brinzer@gmail.com
Anthony Tavianini	752-1975	(cantor/soloist)	atavianini@saintpatricksacademy.net
Simone Kunst	213-7021	(cantor/vocalist)	rosin36344@hotmail.com
Cecelia Fisher-Dahms	973-0345	(cantor/soloist)	cfisherd@cde.ca.gov
Dana Swears	444-5260	(cantor/soloist)	dana.swears58@gmail.com
Carli Zarzana	524-3212	(cantor/soloist)	crzarzana@surewest.net
Rob Zarana	798-9878	(cantor/soloist)	RobZ@ChampSystems.com
John Zapata	739-8220	(cantor/soloist)	jzmusic@sbcglobal.net
Mary Slimko	395-4704	(guitarist)	slimkoma@saccounty.net
Peggy Brown	961-8308	(harpist)	peggy@harpsltd.com
Philip Duke	283-9821	(violinist)	vioboy@aol.com
Vaughn Wolff	399-1399	(violinist/soloist)	vewolff@yahoo.com
Camellia String Quartet	447-4648	(Quartet)	
Music a Due	456-8223	(harp and flute)	
Mariachi Los Versatiles	952-2853 or 457-5860	Manuel Gomez	mariachilosversatiles.com
Mariachi Los Gallos	731-7238 or 224-2101		

Note: Our organ is not available to be played. It is badly in need of repair that can't be done at this time.

BASIC OUTLINE OF THE RITE OF MARRAGE

Prelude (Music)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Processional (Music)

Greeting

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Psalm Response (Read or Music)

Second Reading (Optional)

Gospel

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Exchange of Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Our Father

Sign of Peace

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST (Mass is Optional)

Presentations of the Gifts (Music)

Communion (Music)

CONCLUDING RITE

Closing Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Final Blessing

Recessional (Music)