



## **MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH**

### **A Simple Guide to Catholic Church & Parish Policy**

Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations on your decision to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony. We are delighted that you have freely chosen to partake in the fullness and richness afforded by this wonderful Sacrament of the Church.

This is an exciting and important time for you and for our Parish Community! We want you to have a beautiful marriage ceremony and even more, to have a wonderful life together as a new Catholic family.

Since you are preparing for your life's vocation, we urge you to pray regularly, seeking God's strength and help. We encourage you to be part of our worshipping community on Sunday, receiving communion and assisting in the work and life of the Church.

For some, this may be a return to the Church after an absence. Welcome Home! We assure you that we are delighted to do everything in our power to make your return as simple and as fulfilling as possible.

We thank you for allowing us to be part of your wedding, and we are thankful that your faith will be a part of this special day and your life together as a married couple. You will remain in our prayers, especially during this period of preparation. May God shower many blessings upon you and give you a long life of happiness, holiness and peace.

## **Do You Live In the Parish?**

- ♥ Do you live in the parish?
- ♥ If not, are you going to live in the parish?
- ♥ Are you registered in the parish?

If you live outside the parish, you must obtain a Letter of Recommendation from your pastor in order to be married here. This recommendation should indicate if and when you registered in your parish. Remember that a recommendation does not oblige us to accept a couple, it only releases you from your parish of origin.

## **Are There Any Complications That Should Be Disclosed?**

For example:

- ♥ Living together before marriage
- ♥ The bride being pregnant
- ♥ One of you not being Catholic
- ♥ Either of you under 21 years of age
- ♥ The Catholic bride and/or groom lacking First Communion or Confirmation

## **Have You Been Married Before, Civil or Religious?**

If divorced, you will have to obtain an annulment or a Declaration of Nullity before a date can be set for a new marriage. If there are no complications, no previous marriages (or if all previous marriages have been annulled), and it is determined that the individuals live in the parish or have a Letter of Recommendation from outside the parish, you may then proceed to the meeting with our parish priest.

## **The Initial Meeting with the Parish Priest**

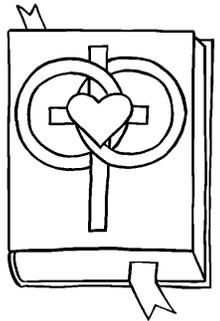
This initial meeting with a parish priest or deacon is scheduled six months prior to the desired date. At this meeting, a date will be discussed for the marriage, and a file will be opened for your wedding. You must meet with the parish secretary to reserve the date discussed with the priest.

You will be asked to fill out a FOCCUS Questionnaire which will help prepare you for your pre-marriage classes. *Be sure to get a schedule of pre-marriage classes in your area from the priest.*

## **Assemble Documents**

**You will need your:**

1. Baptism Certificate: A **current copy** of your baptismal certificate dated within the last 6 months.
2. First Communion Certificate
3. Confirmation Certificate
4. Pre-Marriage Class Certificate
5. Affidavits showing freedom to marry.
6. Marriage License (800) 201-8999



***Do not drop off or mail your documents; bring them with you at the follow-up meeting with the priest.***

## **Attend Pre-Marriage Class**

Pre-marriage classes are given over a weekend retreat called Engagement Encounter (EE), or in the evenings for four Mondays, four Thursdays, or all day Saturday. You need to pre-register.

These classes cover: finances, parenting, sexuality, communication; and of course spirituality. A priest or deacon is present, but other married couples primarily teach the classes. Please discuss with the priest regarding available dates.

## **Planning Your Marriage**

- ♥ After your initial meeting with the priest, you must meet with the parish secretary to reserve the date and time on the church calendar for your wedding and rehearsal. A \$100 non-refundable church offering deposit is to be paid at this time. You can also discuss appropriate attire for the entire wedding party.
- ♥ The Wedding Coordinators, who will assist you plan your ceremony and conduct the rehearsal.
- ♥ You will be given a book from which you can choose your own scripture readings for the ceremony. It is encouraged that friends and relatives be invited to read.
- ♥ A variety of music ministers from our parish are available to assist you in planning the music. The names and numbers are listed and the fees will vary depending on the number of musicians used.

## **Wedding Stipends:**

- ♥ Church Offering/parishioner \$800.00
- ♥ Church Offering/non-parishioner \$1,000.00

**Deposit** of \$100.00 (non-refundable) to reserve the wedding date that has been agreed upon by the priest. Suggestion: Confirm the wedding date & time with the parish prior to arranging the reception venue. Church Offering balance to be paid 30 days prior to wedding.

### **Wedding Time Options:**

Saturday Wedding's: 10AM, 12PM or 2PM (no exceptions)

Friday or any other weekday: time to be determined

- ♥ **Two Wedding Coordinators** must be hired for all Masses (total fee: \$150): Checks payable in the amount of \$75 payable directly to each. Call the Office for the contact information.
- ♥ **A stipend** for the Priest or Deacon.
- ♥ **A stipend** for the 2 Altar Servers @ \$10 each.

## **Musicians/Cantors:**

(select one from these choices, **only**, contact each for their individual fee)

Ralph & Victoria Mohutsky: [ravmomusic.com](http://ravmomusic.com)  
(piano, guitar & vocal) (626) 235-8957

Trevor Thomson: [www.ocp.org/artists/3095](http://www.ocp.org/artists/3095)  
(piano & vocal) (626) 222-6096

Matt Matsumoto: (951) 640-4504  
(piano & vocal)

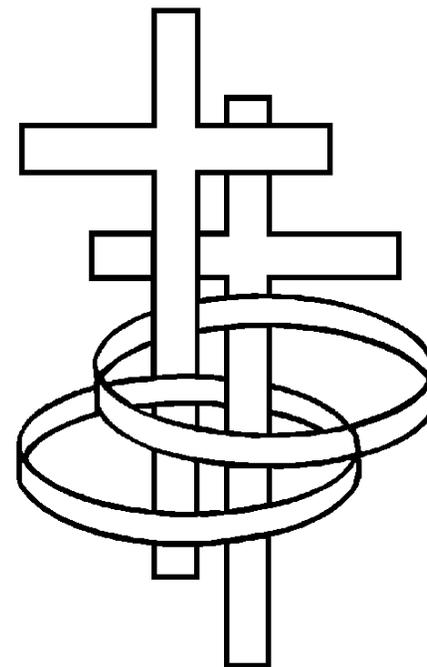
Gabriel Reyes: (626) 590-5298  
(guitar & vocal)

## **The Rehearsal**

The wedding coordinators will walk you through the ceremony twice. Be sure your guests arrive early, alert and well groomed.

Please remember to observe, and have all your guests observe, the sanctity of being in a church; i.e. no shouting, no inappropriate or loud music, no children running around the altar and in the aisles.

## **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church**



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