



Marriage Guide

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Priest Celebrating: _____

Congratulations on making this great decision to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage through the Catholic Church!

This brochure was made to help you plan your marriage celebration at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. **Please read it careful and always keep it Handy for any information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Pastoral Office**

Note: Before officially reserving the date for your marriage, you will need to have an interview with the corresponding priest. Once the priest approves their marriage for the Catholic Church, a **\$625 deposit (non-refundable)** is required to reserve the date of their marriage celebration

Place of Marriage Celebration:

The marriage celebration will take place in the parish of one of the parties. **They need to live in the geographic area of the parish and/or be enrolled in it. If the parties live outside the boundaries of the parish they must obtain a letter of permission from their corresponding parish.**

(Canon #s. 1110-1111)

The Mass must be paid in full at least 1 month before the celebration.

- If the balance is not paid in full 1 month prior, a \$50 late fee will be applied.
- If the full payment is not received at least 2 weeks before the event, the Mass reservation will be canceled.

Documents and Information required:

- **RECENT Baptism Certificate:**

It is necessary to obtain a **new baptism certificate** (solicited recently at the parish where you were baptized). **Copies are not accepted.**

○ **First Communion Certificate:**

If your Baptism certificate brings the information about your First Communion it is not necessary to get this certificate. If either or both made their First Communion here in the United States, they must present their certificate, request it at the parish where they did it.

If one or both of you were born or did your sacrament in outside of the United States and you cannot obtain the certificate, it will be necessary to give the name and the place where the parish or chapel is at, along with the approximate age or the date of when the sacrament was done.

○ **Confirmation Certificate:**

You can bring a copy of the confirmation certificate. If your Baptism certificate has the information of your confirmation, then it is not necessary to bring in a copy of it.

Note: In case that either one of the intending spouses does not have one of their sacraments, they will have to attend classes to receive the pending sacraments for the Christian initiation. **Please wait until you meet with the priest so he can give you proper instruction on how to go about the process to carry out the Marriage sacrament.**

○ **Marriage License:**

For anyone who is NOT married civilly or through court:

The priest will give you the paperwork and all the information you will need to obtain the license. With this "license" at the same time you marry for the church, you will marry civilly.

IMPORTANT: This license is only valid for 90 days:

We recommend that you obtain this at least six weeks prior to the wedding date at the "Marriage Register" offices, you can visit the website for more information in regard to this matter.

<http://ocrecorder.com/services/marriage>

Do not get married civilly; just obtain the license:

If it necessary that you marry "civilly" before the religious wedding, talk with to the priest about it. It is **absolutely prohibited** to celebrate the marriage in the Catholic Church if this "license" is not obtained.

If you are already married civilly:

It will be necessary that you bring your "Marriage Certificate" the original or a certified copy.

Para los que han estado casados anteriormente:

-If one of the intended spouses is a widow, they must bring the death certificate of the deceased spouse. If you do not show this certificate, you cannot complete any procedure.

-If one of the intended spouses **is divorced and not married by the Catholic Church, they must present a previous marriage certificate, and “certified copy” of the final decree of the divorce.** If you do not show the decree, you cannot complete any procedure.

-If one of the intended spouses **is divorced and was married through the Catholic Church** and has a **decree of “marriage nullity”**, you will have to present the decree. If you do not show the decree, you cannot complete any procedure.

-If one of the intended spouses is in the process with the Catholic Church for a possible, declaration of “Sacramental Nullity”, they will not be able to carry out any procedure, until they obtain the “final decree”, favorable

- **Pre-Marital instruction program:**

An instruction on the vocation to Catholic marriage is required. The couple has the responsibility to choose their date of class or withdrawal and reserve it with time. At the end of the classes, **you will be given a certificate that you must give to the priest. (The certificate must be delivered one month before the celebration).** The priest will give you more information about the class or retreat.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TURN IN ALL THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO THE PRIEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

If one of the requirements has not been met at least one month before the wedding, the priest has the right to not celebrate the wedding.

- **Single declaration letter (Witnesses):**

Once the office has received the necessary documentation and confirmed with those who will be their witnesses of “singleness”, **they should speak to the Pastoral Office to make an appointment with the celebrating priest who is processing their wedding.** On this date the couple together with their witnesses under oath to tell the truth, will affirm that they have the intention and freedom to contract the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church.

- **Coordination and Rehearsal if the Marriage Celebration:**

Please call your celebrating priest at 714) 751-5335 to coordinate the date and time of the rehearsal before the wedding celebration. They will give you the dates and times that are most convenient for everyone, as long as it coincides with the free hours of the temple.

“The wedding is only one day; Marriage is for life.”

Expenses for your Church Wedding

Preparation

Preparation before the wedding (not all expenses apply):

\$150 Pre-Marital Talks (Required)

\$86 Civil License (Required)

\$65 Lack of Form (Depending on the marital status)

\$___ Marriage Retreat

Wedding Expenses

\$1250 Church (Mass)

Includes: Initial Interview, document preparation, rehearsal, certificate, and license sent to the state.

\$375 Music (Optional)

Includes: You will need to hire the choir through the church at the office. You must indicate if you want the choir to play at least one month before the wedding.

Community Weddings (in group with other couples)

\$650 per couple

Includes: Initial Interview, document preparation, rehearsal, mass celebration with music, certificate, and license sent to the state.

Documents and Information Checklist:

- RECENT Baptism Certificate
- First Communion Certificate
- Confirmation Certificate
- Marriage License
(For anyone who is NOT married civilly or through court)

If you are already married civilly: Marriage Certificate
- Letters of Freedom to Marry (Witnesses)
- Pre-Marital instruction program:
- Coordination and Rehearsal if the Marriage Celebration