



ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY



*God created man and woman
out of love and commanded them to
imitate his love with each other.
Man and woman were created for
each other... Woman and man are
equal in human dignity, and in
marriage both are united in an
unbreakable bond.*

*(United States Catholic Catechism for
Adults, Cr. 21, p. 279)*

INFORMATIONAL GUIDE FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

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Getting married in the Catholic Church, the high point of the wedding day is the wedding liturgy, where bride and groom become husband and wife in the life-long covenant of marriage.

St. John's Cathedral invites you to enter into a thoughtful, prayerful planning and preparation period to ensure that your day is truly joyful. One that brings the hope of a faithful and loving journey for you and your loved ones who represent the whole community of faith. The priest and staff are happy to help you with your plans for a successful and beautiful Matrimony.

We ask all couples to personally contact the parish office no later than 6 months prior to the matrimony date.



Photograph: Central California Weddings/Weddings Fresno

Questions or information will be answered directly to the Wedding couple. Please inform any parent, relatives or friends that any questions in regards to your marriage will only be addressed with the wedding couple.

Please be aware during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the parish will follow all mandates and this may result in changes to your wedding date, time and/or location of Marriage on Cathedral campus.

APPOINTMENT & RESERVING MATRIMONY

The following documentation must be brought in or emailed by the couple in order to create a pending file and schedule their First Appointment with the Coordinator.

The couple will not be able to reserve an appointment if the documentations are not in order and/or incomplete.

The coordinator will then call you to schedule your First Appointment.



REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- A copy of the Baptismal certificate from EACH person to be married. This copy MUST be dated within the last six months. This may be obtained by contacting the church of your baptism.
**If all sacramental information is listed on the updated baptismal certificate, no other certificates are necessary. However, if sacramental information is missing from the certificate, then you must request certificates from the parishes where the sacraments were given.*
- A certificate of First Communion from EACH person to be married.
- A certificate of Confirmation from EACH person to be married.
- A certificate of Death, if either party is a widow or a widower.
- A marriage license from the county, if the couple is already married civilly.
- Copy of the certificate of annulment, if the person was previously married by the Catholic church.
- If the bride or groom belongs to a Catholic Church other than St. John's Cathedral, then she or he are to ask their pastor for a letter of permission to be married outside their parish boundary.



CHURCH DONATION

The church has to meet the cost of utilities (heating, cooling, electrical) to provide a comfortable atmosphere for your matrimony and therefore a non-refundable/non-taxable fee of \$1,000.00 is due in full to reserve your date. We accept Cash, Visa, Master Card, Discover, or Money Order.

Once the Matrimony date has been booked and monies have been paid to the church, there is no refund. If you would like to change the date and/or time of the Matrimony after it has been booked, there is a \$200.00 dollar fee for the change of date and/or time.

- No monies will be returned if you decide to cancel your Matrimony. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- You may change the date of your Matrimony once. If you decide to change it a second time, then you will have to pay the \$ 1,000.00 non-refundable fee, again.
- You may not transfer the date/monies to another person for any other services.

WEDDING TIME SLOTS

Here at St. John's Cathedral there are three time slots for Matrimony:

Friday – 3:30 p.m.
(Solemn Ceremony ONLY)

Saturday – 12:00 noon
2:00 p.m.





MATRIMONY PREPARATION

All couples married in the Diocese of Fresno are required to attend a pre-marital preparation program of some kind. Here at St. John's Cathedral the couples have the option to attend any of the following courses:

- 1) Catholic Engage Encounter (weekend retreat).
- 2) Six hours of pre-marital counseling at St. Joseph's Counseling Center, Fresno.
- 3) Attend Pre-marital classes offered at any Catholic Church in the Diocese of Fresno.

Couples are responsible for any fees associated with any of the listed above places. Couples are required to fulfill the requirements of the program and our policy. Refusal to comply with any of the points in this Matrimony policy will result in the cancellation of your matrimony ceremony here at St. John's Cathedral.

PRIEST OR DEACON

A priest or a deacon of the Cathedral will be assigned to witness your marriage. You are welcome to invite any other Catholic priest to do your Matrimony.

However; please make sure that the priest contacts the office for delegation and submitting of his paperwork.





TYPE OF CEREMONIES

Nuptial Mass:

A matrimony ceremony performed during the celebration of Mass. If you are thinking about a Nuptial Mass, please keep in mind the sensitivity of your guests and, in particular, if your fiancé and if his/her family are not Catholics. A Nuptial Mass requires participation in prayers, responses, and reception of Holy Communion. The reception of communion for non-Catholics is not permitted. Nuptial Masses are approximately 45 minutes long.

Solemn Ceremony:

A ceremony performed with prayers, scripture readings, and instructions, without Mass. Couples who are civilly married and/or just living together will dialogue with the priest regarding the options of how the con-validation will take place within the context of a simple ceremony or Mass. Simple ceremonies are approximately 30 minutes long.

Solemn Ceremony #2: May also be celebrated after a regularly scheduled weekday or weekend Liturgy. This choice of ceremony does not have readings, but only the exchange of vows and rings. This ceremony takes 10 minutes, (no fees apply to this type of ceremony) any donations to the Church is graciously received. *Please see staff for more information.*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) is strongly encouraged for Catholic persons before the Sacrament of Matrimony. This is especially true for those who have been away from the church for a while, or who have been living in a marriage outside of the church.



WEDDING DAY ARRIVAL TIME

The church is on a strict schedule with many other obligations, responsibilities and masses. It is most important that your Matrimony starts promptly at the scheduled time.

If running late and the Matrimony starts 10 minutes after the agreed time, then there will be NO MASS and you will be married in a Solemn Ceremony (*please see page 5 Solemn Ceremony*).

Your Matrimony party, parents and anyone else participating in the Matrimony ceremony should be notified that they are to be in attendance 30 minutes prior to the Matrimony ceremony.

The Church is the house of God, all should maintain a respectful presence.

CHEWING GUM, DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OR SMOKING ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AT ALL TIMES ON CHURCH PREMISES.

Any member of the Matrimony party that seems to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked not to participate in the Matrimony ceremony.





BRIDE AND BRIDAL PARTY DRESS CODE

In maintaining the milieu of sacredness and prayer, the bride, bridesmaids and bridal party are asked to dress appropriately in the house of God. When choosing Matrimony attire, your choice must reflect the dignity of Christian marriage.

- NO (3"- 4") spaghetti strap dresses**
- NO backless, low bare backs, low necklines, one shoulder dresses**
- NO strapless dresses or high slits**

If you decide to wear a dress that does not cover your shoulders, then you **MUST** wear a shawl or bolero jacket at all times while you are in the church and during picture time.

This also applies for the bridesmaids, and/or anyone who will be entering the sanctuary area if they are wearing shoulder less dresses.

A long veil or long hair does not replace a shawl or bolero jacket. If members of the Matrimony party are not dressed accordingly based on the norms given, they will not be able to participate in the Matrimony. No Exceptions!



SHAWL NEEDED

NO SHAWL NECESSARY

***Piercings:** We respectfully ask that all facial and mouth piercings be removed at least until the end of the religious ceremony.



CHURCH DECORATIONS

Please make sure that the florist knows the exact time of the Matrimony. Please arrange with them to immediately remove any flowers or decorations after the ceremony has concluded. *We are not responsible for any items left behind.*

Please take note of items that are Not permitted.

- No aisle runners.
- No floral arches.
- No tape, glue or any kind of adhesive is allowed for flowers, ribbons/bows to be attached to the wooden pews. ONLY PLASTIC FLOWER HOLDERS ARE PERMITTED FOR AISLE PEW DECORATION. *(Your florist will supply you with this information).*
- No flower petals/rice/birdseeds/confetti are to be thrown inside or outside of the church.
- NO UNITY CANDLES.
- NO FLOWER GIRLS OR CHILDREN IN MATRIMONY PROCESSION UNDER THE AGE OF 8.

Candles–You may use candelabras. However, the candles are not to be lit. This prevents wax from dripping on the floor/carpet and preventions of fire.

PHOTO/ VIDEO GRAPHERS

Matrimony is taking place in a house of worship. Respectful conduct must be observed at all times. Photographers must not interfere with the liturgy nor become a distraction to the people. The church is not the photographers' private studio.

Therefore total respect is expected during the ceremony and in the church.

Photo/Videographers are expected to be in the Church at least 15 minutes prior to the ceremony.

Only your designated photographer - videographer are allowed to take pictures during the ceremony. After the ceremony has ended the photographer has up to 20 minutes to take pictures. The photographer must sign an agreement stating that he\she is aware of the policy regarding photography and will abide by what is written in these policies. The policy must be returned with signatures and business card no later than one month prior to the ceremony. Failure to submit this document, the photographer will not be allowed to take any pictures.

NO EXCEPTIONS MADE!



If the photographer does not abide to the policies, the priest or Matrimony coordinator will ask the photographer to leave the church.

It is not the responsibility of the parish if the photographer does not follow the policies of the Church.

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO LIGHTS ARE PERMITTED.

You will be allowed to take your formal pictures after the Matrimony ceremony. Your photographer is not allowed to use the church as his/her studio. This means screens/special lighting are not permitted in the church building.

No photographers/videographer person is allowed to move around in the sanctuary area. Not complying with this policy will result in the direct dismissal of the photographer from the church and church premises. Please advise your photographer regarding this policy.
NO EXCEPTIONS MADE.

MUSIC

Please contact the parish office for a recommend list of Musician/s or Mariachi whom are familiar with appropriate liturgical music for a Wedding.

This list of Musicians are independent contractors, independent from the parish, they have their own fees and contracts.

Please be aware that secular music, (i.e. "pop", music) or pre-recorded music (i.e. CD's and other digital audio media) is not allowed.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

No church Matrimony will be performed without first obtaining a civil marriage license, which is issued by the state of California. A couple must obtain a marriage license from the County Courthouse. A marriage license is valid for 90 days from the date issued. The marriage license must be brought into the office a month prior to your marriage date.

When obtaining marriage licence please notify the Clerk (Elections Office) that you will be getting Married in a Catholic church. With this license you will also be married civilly on the date of your Matrimony. If you are already married civilly, there is no need to acquire a new license. However, we would need to make a copy of your original license.



PERSONAL EXPENSES

Please understand that the church does not provide or pay for the florist, musicians, singers, soloist, organist, photographers, etc...All of the above is the responsibility of the persons to be married.

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The priest will ONLY speak with the couple that is asking to be married in the Church. Suggestions from parents, relatives or friends will not be taken into consideration unless they are brought forth by the couple themselves.
NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!

INVITATIONS

The correct information for your Matrimony invitations is:

St. John's Cathedral
2814 Mariposa St.
Fresno, CA 93721

WEDDING REHEARSAL

The Matrimony Coordinator will call the couple to inform them of the day and time of the Matrimony rehearsal.

Outside Wedding coordinators are not allowed. The coordinator of St. John's Cathedral is the only coordinator who is allowed within the Church. She will give you a phone call at least two weeks prior to your wedding date to inform you of the time and date.

Reminder: Your payments are non-refundable/non-taxable. Should you have to cancel your Matrimony for any reason, you will forfeit all money paid to St. John's Cathedral.





DOCUMENT CHECK LIST

Please review required documents prior to setting an appointment with the coordinator. Review your sacramental documents, and if the date printed on them are more than six months from the date you received them, most likely you will need to update them.

- Baptismal Certificate (Updated with in 6 months)
- First Communion Certificate
- Confirmation Certificate
- If widow/widower, please provide death certificate of deceased
- If Married civilly, please provide “civil marriage license”
- If you received an annulment from a previous marriage, please provide case number.
- If the bride or groom belongs to a Catholic Church other than St. John’s Cathedral, then she or he are to ask their pastor for a letter of permission to be married outside their parish boundary.
- Fee of \$1,000.00 (CASH, Visa, Master Card, Discover, Cashier Check or Money Order. NO PERSONAL CHECKS

Wedding Coordinator E-mail: weddings@stjohnsfresno.org
Parish E-mail: stjohnscathedral@sbccglobal.net

Phone: (559) 485-6210

Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm