

POLICIES FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRATED AT ST. ANTHONY CLARET CHURCH

Preparation

Sufficient maturity and understanding:

It is the priest's responsibility to be assured that the couple to be married is sufficiently instructed on the nature of marriage in general and the Sacrament of Matrimony in particular. **Therefore, the couple must meet with the priest at least (6) months or more prior to the wedding date.** When you reserve the wedding date with the Priest or Deacon **you must pay the \$100.00 deposit to the secretaries and receive a receipt.**

Sacramental Preparation:

The couple is in reality preparing to receive a Sacrament. Though a marriage is obviously a social occasion, it is deeply rooted in God and this gives the marriage its sacramental and holy dimension. Catholics receiving the Sacrament of marriage are expected to know and be practicing their religion, receiving the Sacraments weekly. Without true spiritual preparation, the marriage loses its real value. If you have been distanced from your Faith, this can be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the Church and her sacraments. Catholics: bride, groom, bridal party, parents, etc., all are expected and invited to receive the Holy Eucharist at the Wedding Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available at the regular hours or by appointment with any priest. It is expected that all Catholics will avail themselves of this opportunity prior to the rehearsal evening.

Witnesses:

The witnesses (best man and maid of honor) must be at least 18 years of age. Furthermore, since the wedding is a Catholic ceremony, it is desirable that the witnesses be practicing Roman Catholics. This is especially desirable if the wedding is celebrated at Mass where they would receive Holy Communion.

DOCUMENTS:

Baptismal Certificates:

Catholics need to obtain a **new copy of their Baptismal certificate dated within six months of their wedding date.** The new copy may be obtained from the church of baptism. In the case of a baptized non-Catholic Christian, he/she also needs to present a certificate of baptism, which may be the original.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation Certificates:

These certificates are likewise requested. Originals are acceptable, but new copies can be obtained by contacting the parish in which these sacraments were celebrated.

Letters of Freedom:

A total of four affidavits are required. **Two testimonies for the bride and two for the groom.** These forms are obtained from the priest. The person who signs, attests that the individual has not been married before and that he or she is free and capable of entering into a Christian marriage. They are requested for all, regardless of religious background, and they must be signed before a priest, deacon, minister, notary public, or person designated by the priest.

Dispensations:

If any dispensation from a law is required, the priest and couple will discuss this during the initial meeting.

Pre-Marriage Preparation Classes and Program Certificate:

A communication workshop is required for every couple. The couple needs to contact **the parish office at (714) 776-0270** to schedule a date for the pre-marriage classes. Couples should contact the parish office at least six (6) months before the wedding date. **If the couple does not attend the pre-marriage classes, the priest will not marry them. This is a church requirement.** The couple will receive a certificate when the marriage program is completed. This certificate is to be given to the priest preparing the couple.

Marriage Counseling:

In the case of those under 20 years of age, pre-marriage counseling is required. A letter from a counselor indicating the couple's preparedness will be required by the priest. The priest will discuss this during the initial interview.

Family Conciliation Court:

If either party is under 18 years of age it is required by the State of California that the Family Conciliation Court interview them. Otherwise, a marriage license cannot be issued. It is rare that a priest would consider witnessing a marriage in the Church if either party is under 18 years.

Civil License:

This must be obtained from the state in which the couple is getting married and be presented to the priest. This document is valid **only for 90 days**. The license can be obtained at the:

Marriage License Clerk's Office **(714) 834-2500**

211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701

Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm

Downtown Fullerton Location **(714) 834-2710**

201 N. Harbor Blvd in Fullerton, CA 92832.

Office hours are Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 4:00pm

Do not get married at the courthouse. You only need to buy the license. The priest will perform the marriage for both Church and State.

EUCAMENICAL / INTERFAITH MARRIAGES:

When a person from a different Christian church or non-Christian religion marries a Catholic Christian, certain points need to be remembered. The Catholic:

- a. Must persevere and grow in the Catholic Faith.
- b. Must respect the conscience of his or her partner.
- c. Must insure that their children are Baptized and brought up as Catholics.

The Church wants to make sure that the non-Catholic partner is fully aware of these essential points and agrees.

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE:

If either party has been married before by common law, civilly, or a religious ceremony, this fact and any other unusual circumstance must be discussed with the priest arranging the marriage at the first meeting. No date may be set in such cases before all is cleared by the priest and the Office of Canonical Affairs of the Diocese of Orange.

Banns of Marriage:

The customary publication of the banns is made for the marriage of two Catholics. The banns will be announced in our parish bulletin and will be arranged by the priest.

Sacrament of Penance:

Both bride and groom are required to receive the Sacrament a week to a month before the wedding. **The priest will not be available at the rehearsal for Confessions, so please plan ahead.** Confessions at St. Anthony's are: Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and Saturdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm or by appointment.

IMPORTANT MATTERS:

Rehearsal: **You need to contact the wedding coordinator three (3) months before your wedding date. The wedding coordinator** will help you with arrangements, lead the rehearsal, and will be present on the day of your wedding to assist you. All those to be involved directly in the wedding **must be present.** Please insist on punctuality.

Wedding Coordinator Information

Name: Roda Cisco

Phone Number: 714-403-4224

Email: rodakar@gmail.com

Music:

Please remember that all music at the wedding is to be prayer, raising our minds and hearts to God. Many fine songs that are quite appropriate for the reception are sometimes not appropriate for the wedding mass. Only Church music can be used at Mass. As well, pre-recorded music is not allowed. Mrs. Perez can assist in guiding you in this area.

Photography:

Photographs and video recordings are permitted during the ceremony, but no posed photography is permitted either before or after the ceremony. Very nice posed pictures can be taken in front of the Church or in front of the Guadalupe Shrine.

Photographers and/or video technicians are not permitted around the altar. Spotlights are strictly forbidden. Your photographer and/or video technician should be professional, experienced with Catholic weddings, and unobtrusive. Please ask your photographer and/or technician to consult with the priest before the wedding begins. **Note:** Any photographer/video technician, who becomes disruptive or in any way violates these guidelines, will be invited to leave.

Flowers:

Please contact a florist of your choosing. The wedding coordinator will help you with suggestions. The floral arrangements must not hide the altar. You are invited to take the flowers with you to your reception. **During Lent, there are no flowers allowed in the church, as it is a penitential time in the Church. You are only allowed two floral arrangements by the altar.**

Bride's Room:

We have a bride's room available in the front vestibule of the church. It is recommended that the bride and her party dress completely before arriving and use the room as a waiting area. Kindly, **do not leave any valuables in the room; we are not responsible for lost articles.** Remember, smoking and drinking is strictly prohibited in this room and in all areas of the church and grounds.

Keep in mind: alcohol should not be consumed by any in the wedding party at any time in the morning/afternoon or before the wedding. After the wedding is time for festive celebration and only then in moderation. Food should not be brought onto the grounds of the church. The wedding party and all guests should never chew gum in the church. Rest rooms are located behind the church. The rest room doors are accessible from the outside.

Church Decorum:

Since the church is the House of God, a respectful silence should be maintained at all times. The **throwing of confetti, rice, etc. and runners and rose petals are not allowed** on the grounds of the church as it poses a danger of slipping. As House of prayer, the church interior is not to be altered by balloons or other items. These should be used at the reception. If there are any attachments of small decorations to the pews, use only masking tape. Clear plastic tape will damage the pews and we will be forced to bill you for their repair. Please assign someone to remove the decorations and tape completely, following the service. All decorations, flowers, containers, etc. are the responsibility of the wedding party. Please do not litter on the grounds. **Alcohol is never permitted on the church property.**

Fees & Dates are discussed with the Couple and the Priest's at the Marriage Interview.

Responsibilities:

If your Sponsors are taking responsibility for anything in the Mass, please make sure that they read this book for whatever may pertain to them. It is very important that they know this information.

Thank you for your cooperation in reading and abiding by the above regulations. You have planned and worked hard to have a beautiful beginning at this time in your lives. Your marriage vows lived faithfully and completely will be the proof of your love of God and the way that leads you to heaven.

We are honored to have the invitation to assist you in your wedding preparation. Be assured we will work with you to make your wedding a most memorable day.

The Priests of St. Anthony Claret Church – January 2017