



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Embracing God's People • Equipping Disciples • Accompanying Believers

Marriage Preparation Document Checklist

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. It is hoped that this resource may be of some help in navigating some of the formal aspects associated with your marriage preparation process.

The timely furnishing of the documents listed below is the responsibility of the couple.

There are additional documents, the preparation of which are the responsibility of the pastor (or his delegate) of the Church of marriage.

Groom:

- ☐ Baptism Certificate
- ☐ First Holy Communion Certificate
- ☐ Confirmation Certificate
- ☐ Engaged Encounter Certificate
- ☐ Witness Affidavits

*Baptism certificates must be issued within six months of the proposed date of marriage. They are issued at the Church of baptism. Only original certificates are acceptable.

*Holy Communion and Confirmation certificates are issued by the Churches where the sacraments were received. Copies are acceptable.

Bride:

- ☐ Baptism Certificate
- ☐ First Holy Communion Certificate
- ☐ Confirmation Certificate
- ☐ Engaged Encounter Certificate
- ☐ Witness Affidavits

*Engaged Encounter certificate is issued to a couple upon successful completion of the process.

*Witness affidavits are forms which are available from the Church of proposed marriage. They are to be completed and returned to the Church of proposed marriage.

- All documents, with the exception of the State-issued marriage license, are to be on file at the Church of marriage four weeks prior to the proposed date of marriage.
- Church Donation delivered to the Parish Office no later than one week prior to the proposed date of marriage
- The State-issued marriage license must be provided to the Church of marriage no later than one week prior to the proposed date of marriage.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why must my baptismal certificate be recently issued? Why can't I use my original certificate?

Church records need to be sent to the parish in which you will get married. Baptismal records, and certificates of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, need to be sent to the parish so that the date of your marriage can be added to the form. The Church of your Baptism is notified by the Church of your Marriage that you have celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony. A recently issued baptism certificate should contain the most current sacramental information.

Must I be confirmed in order to get married in the Church?

Technically, no. However, those who are baptized Catholic and who are mature enough to enter into marriage are expected to be fully initiated, that is to also have received first communion and be confirmed. Circumstances of life may have led to this not being the case, however. Nonetheless, we may still assist a couple in preparing for marriage even if the catholic(s) involved is/are not yet confirmed. Those who are planning on living a life of adult faith in the community are encouraged to complete their sacraments of initiation, including first communion and confirmation. We are more than happy to help you in moving toward this.

Is there a fee or a charge for getting married in the Church?

Once again, the short answer is no. Marriage is a sacrament, and we do not charge for sacraments in the Church. However, parishioners and non-parishioners are accustomed to making a donation in order to contribute to the costs associated with the services the Church provides for those couples who are getting married here, such as building-associated costs (utilities, cleaning, etc.), staff costs, costs associated with paperwork (mailing, generating and filing), among other costs.

What is considered an appropriate amount for a donation?

This varies from place to place according to custom and circumstance. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes a distinction is made between registered parishioners who are already actively supporting the parish, exercising stewardship of time and treasure, and those who are not, or who are coming from outside the parish. Please ask the priest or minister who is assisting you, or the parish receptionist, what is customary for a donation for either marriage or convalidation.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask the priest or parish minister who is assisting you with your preparations for marriage. We are delighted to accompany you on this journey toward a most significant moment in your life. Please allow us to offer whatever assistance we may in order to make your preparations as comfortable and as meaningful as possible