



Celebrating Your Wedding Anniversary

Holy Father, who are called faithful, requiring and rewarding the observance of your covenant, be pleased to fill with your blessings these your servants who celebrate the anniversary of their Marriage... Holy Father, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit enjoy from eternity perfect oneness of life and a communion of love, grant that these your servants may always remember and faithfully keep the covenant of love they made in the Sacrament... Holy Father, who in your providence order all the experiences of human life so as to lead the faithful to share in the mystery of Christ, grant that these your servants, serenely accepting both good times and bad, may strive to cling to Christ and live for him alone... Holy Father, who willed that the partnership of Marriage should be an example of Christian living, grant that all married couples may be witnesses in the world to the mystery of your Son's love.

Universal Prayer for Anniversary of Marriage, *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony* 245

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding anniversary! And thank you for choosing to celebrate your wedding anniversary with your family and friends in your spiritual home at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

Your married life through the years has been a witness to Marriage, and celebrating your wedding anniversary will strengthen that witness. Your anniversary celebration also will give your family and friends an opportunity to express their support for you, as well as their gratitude for your positive example of Marriage and family life through the years. Pope Francis has specifically encouraged celebration of wedding anniversaries: “We need these moments of cherishing God’s gifts and renewing our zest for life. As long as we can celebrate, we are able to rekindle our love, to free it from monotony and to color our daily routine with hope” (Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (On Love in the Family) 226).

This document provides some essential information about wedding anniversary celebrations here at OLG. We look forward to celebrating your anniversary with you and praying for God to continue to pour his grace upon you in your married life.

Please note: Many couples are blessed to have family, friends and/or professional event coordinators helping them plan their anniversary celebration. However, in terms of everything having to do with your anniversary celebration here at OLG, you, the couple, or **one** family member must deal directly with the parish. In addition, although professional event coordinators are always welcome in our church to worship and may attend anniversary celebrations as guests, they are to have absolutely no role anywhere on the parish property either in the planning of the anniversary celebration or the anniversary celebration itself.

Scheduling the Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Scheduling a wedding anniversary celebration begins with completing a “Registration for Wedding Anniversary Mass” form and submitting it to the Parish Office, along with any required deposit (discussed below). The anniversary celebration is then scheduled in the church calendar. (The “Registration for Wedding Anniversary Mass” form is available both in the Parish Office and on the “Wedding Anniversaries” webpage of the parish website.)

On the “Registration for Wedding Anniversary Mass” form, you are given the opportunity to request a particular priest to preside at your anniversary Mass. Every effort will be made to honor that request, but final scheduling ultimately will be based upon that priest’s availability to preside at your anniversary Mass. If that priest is not available, another priest will be assigned to preside at your anniversary Mass.

At the time of registration or shortly thereafter, you will be required to provide a Marriage certificate from the Catholic Church in which you were married (to document that you are married according to the Marriage laws of the Catholic Church).

Donation for Your Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Because Our Lady of Guadalupe is a parish community, not a vendor, and because sacraments are not “for sale,” we do not speak of “charging” for wedding anniversary celebrations or “fees” for anniversary Masses. But there is a required donation for wedding anniversary celebrations to help cover the cost of the service provided, including the cost of the priest, church coordinator and altar servers. This *does not* include the cost of music for the anniversary celebration – please see below for information about those costs.

Regular donation for wedding anniversary Mass: \$600.00

- \$400 nonrefundable deposit due within two weeks of scheduling the wedding anniversary Mass – the date will not be reserved unless the deposit is paid – with the remainder due no later than one month before the anniversary Mass.
- Donation amount includes presiding priest, church coordinator and server(s)

Discounted donation for wedding anniversary Mass for a practicing Catholic parishioner: \$300.00

- Available if the husband and/or wife of the anniversary couple –
 1. Has been registered as a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, La Habra, for at least one year at the time of the *scheduling* of the anniversary Mass (*NOT* the *date* of the anniversary Mass) *AND*
 2. Has regularly attended Sunday Mass at OLG (Sunday Mass obligation does not apply in the case of infirmity or other just cause) *AND*
 3. In a spirit of Christian stewardship, has contributed regularly to the life of the parish community from his or her time, talent and/or treasure.
- \$100 nonrefundable deposit due within two weeks of scheduling the wedding anniversary Mass – the date will not be reserved unless the deposit is paid – with the remainder due no later than one month before the anniversary Mass.

- Donation amount includes presiding priest, church coordinator and server(s)

Donation for wedding anniversary celebration at regularly-scheduled weekday Mass (Monday – Friday): \$0

- Available only for 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th and 55th wedding anniversaries, and for all wedding anniversaries of 60 years or more
- Consisting of a renewal of Marriage promises, special blessing for the couple and blessing of rings at a point during the Mass to be determined by the priest presider (*without* music, processional, recessional or church coordinator)

Planning Your Wedding Anniversary Celebration

You are invited to plan your wedding anniversary Mass (selecting Scripture readings and readers to proclaim them, choosing an optional processional and/or recessional, selecting gift-bearers for the Presentation of Gifts, etc.). An anniversary liturgy planning sheet will be given to you at the time of registration and also is available on the “Wedding Anniversaries” page of the Parish Website. (You will discuss musical selections for your anniversary Mass with our parish musicians, as discussed below.)

Elements of a Wedding Anniversary Mass

A wedding anniversary Mass consists of the following:

- The Introductory Rites, including an optional procession (normally down the center aisle with accompanying music) of the priest and other ministers, family and friends chosen by the anniversary couple, and finally the anniversary couple.
- The Liturgy of the Word, in which the anniversary couple, family and friends hear God’s Word about the ways God pours his grace upon married couples and helps them in their married lives.
- An optional renewal of Marriage promises by the anniversary couple and blessing of rings.
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist, including an optional blessing of the anniversary couple following the Our Father (at the time when the Nuptial Blessing is imparted upon the bride and groom in a wedding Mass).
- The Concluding Rite, including an optional recessional (departure from the church) of the anniversary couple and their chosen family and friends (normally down the center aisle with accompanying music).

Processional

If you so desire, you may have an opening procession from the vestibule up the center aisle, in the following order:

1. Altar servers
2. Priest

3. Family and friends accompanying the anniversary couple – up to eight couples or processing individually – who proceed into the front pews reserved for them. Please note that flower petals may not be dropped or thrown on the floor of the church.
4. The anniversary couple accompanying one another. The anniversary couple may proceed either (1) to a place in the center of the sanctuary or (2) into a front pew reserved for them.

All other guests must be seated in the church prior to the scheduled starting time of the anniversary Mass. Guests of honor may be seated prior to the opening procession with special accompanying music. To allow for a more orderly seating of the guests and for the anniversary Mass to start on time, the guest book should not be placed at the church but rather should be made available at the reception.

Liturgy of the Word

You are encouraged to discern and select the Scripture readings that will be proclaimed at your anniversary Mass. You also may choose one or two readers for the Scripture readings. The text for these will be provided in a binder placed on the ambo on the day of your anniversary Mass but also can be found (for preparation and practice) in “Readings and Prayers for Matrimony” on the “Marriage” webpage of the parish website.

During the Liturgy of the Word, if you are in the sanctuary, you will be seated in chairs on the west side of the sanctuary.

Optional Renewal of Marriage Promises and Blessing of Rings

If you so desire, you may renew your Marriage promises and have your wedding rings blessed (either the rings you exchanged on your wedding day or new rings). The renewal of Marriage promises is in the form of a prayer, as follows:

Husband: **Blessed are you, Lord, for by your goodness I took N. as my wife.**

Wife: **Blessed are you, Lord, for by your goodness I took N. as my husband.**

Husband and Wife together: **Blessed are you, Lord, for in the good times and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our side. Help us, we pray, to remain faithful in our love for one another, so that we may be true witnesses to the covenant you have made with humankind.**

You will have the help of your presiding priest in saying this prayer, with your presiding priest giving you the words one phrase at a time so that you can repeat after him.

If you so desire, you may be miked with a handheld microphone held by an altar server or your presiding priest for the renewal of Marriage promises and blessing of rings. The volume on the handheld microphone is set high enough that you will be heard over the sound system of the church as long as you "speak up" so as to project your voice. Although it is laudible and an expression of hospitality to want your family and friends to be able to hear you during this part of your anniversary Mass, it is not essential. Someone who has not had experience with microphones may find it intimidating to hear his or her voice coming over the sound system (which often causes a person to speak more and more quietly, defeating the purpose of having

the microphone in the first place). In this case it would be well advised not to use a microphone at all. The microphone will not be held "in your face," even if this is the only way for your voice to be heard over the microphone. (This obviously is a very important point in the liturgy that should be prayerful and dignified, not looking like you are being interviewed.) If you choose to be miked during this part of your anniversary Mass, the church coordinator will practice this with you at your rehearsal.

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

You also may choose a reader for the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful). The text for the Universal Prayer will be provided in a binder placed on the ambo on the day of your anniversary Mass but also can be found (for preparation and practice) in "Readings and Prayers for Matrimony" on the "Marriage" webpage of the parish website. Because the Universal Prayer is done in a specific liturgical manner – with invocations and responses of the assembly – it is recommended that you choose a reader for this who is an experienced lector in a Catholic Church. If there is no one among your family and friends with that qualification, it is recommended that you have your presiding priest lead the Universal Prayer himself.

Presentation of Gifts

You may choose two persons to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine at the Presentation of Gifts. A few other persons may accompany the two bringing forward the gifts (if, for example, a particular family/group will bring forward the gifts). The two persons carrying the bread and wine should be old enough and mature enough to carry these items easily.

Optional Blessing following the Our Father

If you so desire, you may receive a special anniversary blessing following the Our Father (which is when the Nuptial Blessing is imparted upon the bride and groom in a wedding Mass).

Sign of Peace

In our celebration of the Eucharist, a reverent, prayerful exchange of a sign of peace is part of our immediate preparation to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. If you are in the sanctuary for your anniversary Mass, you will first exchange a sign of peace with one another. If you like, you may then proceed down to some of your family and friends in the pews to exchange a sign of peace with them, returning immediately to your places in the sanctuary to prepare for Holy Communion. Please note that this a time for a reverential, prayerful exchange of a sign of peace, not a time to receive congratulations and well wishes from your family and friends (there will be plenty of time for that later during the reception). Therefore, if you do not think that you or your family and friends will be able to avoid the temptation to have this time disintegrate into mere greetings and conversation, it is highly recommended that you remain at your places in the sanctuary and prepare prayerfully to receive Holy Communion.

Optional Recessional (Departure from the Church) of the Anniversary Couple and Family and Friends Chosen by Them

If you so choose, following the final blessing and dismissal, the following may process out of the church down the center aisle, in this order:

1. The anniversary couple
2. Family and friends chosen by the anniversary couple

Use of rice, confetti, flower petals, birdseed or the like is prohibited both inside and outside the church.

Music for Your Anniversary Mass

Since sacred music, especially sung music, is an important part of the prayer of the Church, live music and singing of Christian hymns and songs are encouraged. If you desire music for your anniversary Mass, parish musicians (instrumentalist(s), cantor/soloist, choir, etc.) are available. Following are our parish musicians available for anniversary Masses:

Musician(s):	Contact:	Fee:
Charles Welling (principal organist/pianist)	(714) 273-6985	\$250.00
Kristin Wat (soprano cantor/soloist – cantors at the 9:30 and 11:15 am Masses most Sundays)	(714) 305-5334	\$250.00
Lalo Guzman (baritone cantor/soloist and guitarist – cantors at the 7:45 am and 1 pm Masses most Sundays)	(562) 505-0771	\$250.00
Lorraine Welling (soprano cantor/soloist – cantors at the 5:30 pm Mass most Saturdays)	(714) 585-1430	\$250.00
Kristy Camarella (soprano cantor/soloist – substitute cantor at OLG and cantor at St. John Neumann in Irvine)	(562) 400-7876	\$250.00
Trio Tepeyac (singers/guitarists) – Lalo Guzman, Director	(562) 505-0771	\$350.00
Gloria Dei Choir (sings at the 9:30 am Mass most Sundays) (organist not included)	(562) 400-5474	\$600.00

You are responsible for contacting and scheduling the parish musician(s) of your choice from the list above for your anniversary Mass. You are highly encouraged to contact your desired musicians at your earliest convenience to ensure their availability for your anniversary Mass. Musicians other than the parish’s designated musicians generally are not allowed to be involved in music at anniversary Masses, although there are rare exceptions (e.g., when a close family member or friend is a trained musician who works as a music minister in another Catholic parish). Please discuss this possibility with your parish musician(s). Mariachis or other musicians may perform only outside of the church after the anniversary Mass. Considering the great expense of such music, though, it is recommended to have these musicians perform at the reception instead, where they may be better enjoyed by everyone.

Because tax and labor laws require that musicians for anniversary Masses be paid through the parish payroll, the total fees for the musician(s) should be paid to the parish in the Parish Office, which, in turn, will pay the musicians as part of regular payroll.

Your parish musician(s) will discuss with you the various options for sacred music for your anniversary Mass and help you make your musical selections. The principles applicable to music for weddings apply equally to anniversary Masses. Specifically, music for anniversary Masses “should be appropriate and should express the faith of the Church” (*The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Prenotanda 35). “Secular music, even though it may emphasize the love of the spouses for one another, is not appropriate for the Sacred Liturgy” (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* 220). Music for anniversary Masses therefore must be sacred in nature. Recorded music also is not allowed at anniversary Masses because “recorded music lacks the authenticity provided by a living liturgical assembly gathered for the Sacred Liturgy” (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* 93). Recorded music, popular songs and other types of secular music are best done at the reception.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals for anniversary Masses usually occur sometime the week before the Mass. Parish staff will contact you to schedule your rehearsal. It is essential that as many participants in the anniversary Mass as possible attend the rehearsal – the more participants who attend the rehearsal, the smoother and better the anniversary Mass will be. Please note that because our church calendar is often full of events, including multiple wedding rehearsals on one evening, it is essential that everyone involved in your anniversary Mass be on time for your rehearsal. Anyone who is late for the rehearsal may miss important parts of the rehearsal or miss the rehearsal altogether.

Importance of Beginning at the Scheduled Starting Time

Because our church calendar is often packed with back-to-back services, it is imperative that you and all involved in your anniversary Mass be at the church 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time and be ready to begin precisely at the scheduled starting time. If any essential participants in the anniversary Mass are late and the starting time has to be delayed, the presiding priest may, in his sole discretion, delete different parts of the liturgy (so as to complete the liturgy on time) or (if essential participants are substantially late) cancel the anniversary Mass altogether (with no refund).

Photography and Videography

Our church is sacred space, consecrated for celebration of the sacraments, worship and prayer. It is not a “venue” for “events.” Photographers and videographers hired for anniversary celebrations in the church are required to conduct themselves accordingly, in a reverential and respectful manner. Following are the requirements for photographers and videographers at an anniversary Mass:

- The anniversary couple and all essential participants in the anniversary Mass are required to be at the church 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time and ready to begin precisely at the scheduled starting time. This must be taken into account when scheduling any photographs to be taken prior to the liturgy (whether at home, at the church or elsewhere). Pre-ceremony, posed photographs, if any, should be kept to a minimum so that the anniversary couple and essential participants in the anniversary Mass can focus on being punctual.

- Photographers and videographers should arrive at the church at least 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time and report immediately to the church coordinator for direction and supervision.
- Photographers and videographers are **ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED** from entering into the sanctuary area (the raised area bordered by marble steps around the altar) during the anniversary Mass. Photographers and videographers also are **ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED** from going up into the choir loft at the back of the church at any time. Rule of thumb: If you have to step up to go somewhere, you are **NOT** supposed to be there!
- Photographers and videographers are never to position themselves in such a way (1) that the pathway of any participant would be blocked in any way (including during the processional and recessional) or (2) that the view of anyone attending the anniversary Mass would be blocked in any way. In particular, during the anniversary Mass, photographers and videographers are not to go into the area between the front pews of the nave (the main body of the church) and the first step of the sanctuary (except to cross from one side of the church to the other). In addition, photographers and videographers are **NEVER** to stop the flow and forward movement of the processional or recessional to set up or pose a photo or “scene.”
- Photographers and videographers should make themselves as inconspicuous as possible **AT ALL TIMES**. This means minimizing movement during the anniversary Mass so as not to distract those in attendance from the prayer and worship.
- Posed, post-ceremony photographs may be taken in the church but must be completed 15 minutes after the completion of the ceremony or 1-1/2 hours after the scheduled starting time of the ceremony, whichever comes first. Posed photographs may be taken anytime outside of the church.
- It is expected that photographers and videographers will adhere to all of the foregoing requirements in a professional manner. Any photographer or videographer failing to do so may have to leave church grounds immediately, in the sole discretion of the pastor, the presiding priest or the church coordinator. For this reason, anniversary couples are advised to consider the professionalism of the photographer and/or videographer when retaining these services. The photographer and/or videographer also should be directed to this document on the “Wedding Anniversaries” webpage of the parish website so that he or she is well advised and well informed of these requirements.

Flowers

Most would agree that our church is one of the most beautiful in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, especially the huge stained-glass windows that provide vibrant color and light throughout the church. In addition, the parish’s Environment Committee makes sure that the church is always decorated beautifully and appropriately for the season, including plants, flowers, banners and other decorative elements. Indeed, our church is so large, ornate and well decorated that any additional flowers purchased for an anniversary Mass almost are lost and might not even be noticed by some guests. For this reason, it is recommended that anniversary couples spend moderately on additional flowers for anniversary celebrations in the church.

Following are the requirements for flower arrangements for anniversary Masses in the church:

- Because the setup time for an anniversary Mass is only the 30 minutes prior to the service, floral arrangements for the church should be planned and designed so that they easily can be placed by the florist in 15 minutes or less. (This allows another 15 minutes for the florist to deliver and coordinate bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, etc.)
- The florist should arrive at the church at least 30 minutes before the anniversary Mass and report immediately to the church coordinator for direction and supervision.
- Only two flower arrangements may be placed in the sanctuary, on pillars provided by the parish and placed on either side of the altar. Each pillar is 40 inches tall and has a top surface area that is circular with a diameter of 10 inches. (The church coordinator will show the florist exactly where these arrangements may be placed.) Because the ministers must be able to move around the sanctuary without obstacles, each flower arrangement in the sanctuary must be no larger than 40 inches high and 30 inches wide.
- Flower arrangements to be placed upon the pews must be simple, easily placed, and easily removed within 10 minutes after the wedding. Pew decorations must **HANG** from the pew ends – **NO** tape or tacks. There are to be **NO** ribbon swags or aisle runners.
- Because the center aisle must be clear for the processional and recessional, and because of fire safety regulations, no free-standing flower arrangements are to be placed in the aisles.
- **NO** candles may be used in any flower arrangements, and **NO** candelabra may be used.
- The flowers, plants and other decorative elements placed by the parish Environment Committee are **NOT** to be touched or moved in any manner.
- It is expected that florists will adhere to all of the foregoing requirements in a professional manner. A florist failing to do so may have to leave church grounds immediately, in the sole discretion of the pastor, the presiding priest or the church coordinator. For this reason, anniversary couples are advised to consider the professionalism of the florist when retaining these services. The florist also should be directed to this document on the “Wedding Anniversaries” webpage of the parish website so that he or she is well advised and well informed of these requirements.
- Sometimes anniversary couples desire to donate the anniversary Mass flowers to the church, to be placed somewhere in the church or outside at one of the Marian shrines. This is laudable and appreciated. The church coordinator will receive such donations of flowers and place them appropriately according to the existing decorations in the church and the particular season.

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