

Guidelines FOR Marriage



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Congratulations on your engagement! You and your Fiancé have made a very sacred and serious commitment, deciding to Marry one another in the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Matrimony. Jesus has called you to draw closer to each other and God.

Marriage is a permanent commitment to a way of life; it requires careful thought, prayer and preparation. Here at Holy Family Church we are privileged to assist you in the preparation of your Wedding.

For your convenience we have prepared this booklet to assist you in your planning of this most special day.

Requirements

1. FIRST INTERVIEW — INITIAL CONTACT

Engaged couples wishing to be Married in the Catholic Church must contact our Parish **at least six month prior** to the anticipated Wedding date. It is required to make an appointment with our Pastor to begin the First Interview process. **The Pre-Nuptial Inquiry** questionnaire must be completed prior to the scheduled appointment date and both the Bride and Groom must be present.

*You can obtain this questionnaire at the Parish Office
or online at www.HolyFamilyWilmington.org.*

During this Initial Contact the Pastor will assess you and your fiancé and your readiness for Marriage. A decision to proceed with the wedding is made by the Pastor and the couple following the assessment process. **The Wedding date is finalized only at this time, after the decision to proceed has been made.**

2. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- **Baptism Certificates:** Each of you will need a recent Catholic Certificate to be acquired within the last six months with proper notations for Matrimony. These documents are required in order to book the Wedding date.
- **First Communion & Confirmation Certificate (s):** Valid Catholic Certificates need to be presented. These do not have to be recent copies. If you or your fiancé don not have this Sacrament please let the pastor know during the First Interview.
- **Pre-Nuptial Inquiry:** Must be completed prior to the First Interview appointment date. Once signed by the Pastor you can proceed to book the Wedding date.

- **Wedding Rules and Regulations:** Signed by both Bride and Groom. It is the responsibility of the party to distribute these procedures to any photographer, videographer, limousine service and attendees prior to the Mass so that they are aware of the protocol of Holy Family Church.
- **Permission letter for the Bride:** Must be obtained at the bride's Parish if the bride lives outside of Wilmington, CA boundaries.
- **State of California Marriage License or Marriage Certificate:** For those Engaged couples who are not yet civilly Married, a Marriage License must be obtained at the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office. The license is only valid for 90-days from the date issued and once obtained you must bring all documents along with yellow envelope provided to the Parish Office. The license will be signed by officiating Priest the day of your Wedding and mailed out the next business day.

*Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office
12400 Imperial Hwy. 2nd Fl., Rm. 2001—Norwalk, CA 90650 | Tel. (562) 462-2137
[www.lavote.net/home/county-clerk/marriage-licenses-ceremonies/
apply-for-a-marriage-license/apply](http://www.lavote.net/home/county-clerk/marriage-licenses-ceremonies/apply-for-a-marriage-license/apply)*

For couples who are Civilly Married, please provide a copy of your Marriage Certificate.

- **Marriage Witnesses:** Godparents of Honor or Best man and Maid of Honor will act as witnesses of your Marriage Ceremony. Full name, address and telephone number must be provided to the Parish Office. These Witnesses will be signing the Marriage License the day of the Ceremony.
- **Any other documents:** Any other documents or procedures required and asked by the Pastor during the First Interview (i.e. Mixed Marriage, Disparity of Worship, Declaration of Nullity, etc.)

(All documents are kept confidential on file at the Parish Office.)

3. MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

The Pastor will assigned the appropriate program you and your fiancé will need to attend.

Convalidation Marriage Preparation Program

These programs are for couples who are presently civilly Married and now desire to have their Marriage validated in the Catholic Church. This type of preparation can also be beneficial for the couple who has lived together for an extended period of time. The program explores topics that will help them nurture their existing relationship, such as decision-making, parenting, finances and Married intimacy.

*You can obtain a list of programs at the Parish Office
or by visiting <http://archla.org/marriageprep>*

Engaged Encounter Weekends

This is a weekend experience that is designed to encourage the engaged couples to participate in personal reflection and dialogue. It is designed to give couples preparing for Marriage the opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together, with help in discussing their strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, and goals; and attitudes about money, sex, children, family and their roles in the Church and society.

*You can obtain a list of retreats at the Parish Office
or by visiting www.CEEofLA.org
For Spanish retreats visit www.encdenovioslosangeles.com*

4. SECOND INTERVIEW — PRE-MARRIAGE INTERVIEW

You and your fiancé will need to make an appointment for the Pre-Marriage Interview. Each of you should have two witnesses that will testify that you are free to Marry. Its preferred and recommended to bring your parents if possible, if not the witnesses must be over 18 years of age and have known you all your life (i.e. aunts/uncles, older cousins

or older siblings). Bride, Groom and all four witnesses will be asked to sign documents in the presence of a Priest.

5. SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNION

Catholic engaged persons are encouraged to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist as part of their preparation process. This Sacramental celebration will prepare you for a more meaningful experience on your Wedding day. All Catholic participating party is also encourage to celebrate these Sacraments.

Holy Family Church Confession schedule is

Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00pm to 6:45pm (please arrive early).

If this schedule is not convenient for you or your party, please see other local Parishes.

6. WEDDING REHEARSAL

A weekend prior to the Ceremony, you will receive a call with information concerning the rehearsal. The rehearsal will take place the Wednesday prior to the Ceremony at 5:00 p.m. in the Church.

Only the people participating in the entrance procession must attend this rehearsal which includes:

- Bride and Groom
- Parents of the Bride and Groom
- Godparents of: Honor, Rings, Lasso, and Unity Coins,
- Best Man and Maid of Honor

The following is not permitted: Kids (this includes 'pajes', flower girl (s), ring bearers, etc.).

No claims can be made on the number of people that can participate or the manner in which they enter indicated by the coordinators.

7. PAYMENT PLAN

The fee of the celebration is of \$550 which includes the use of the Church, Organist and Parish Decoration. (Note: No other musician is

authorized!)

\$150 deposit is due at the time of booking date. The remaining balance must be paid in 4 monthly payments of \$100.

If booking is done 6 months or less of desired date, Mass must be paid in full.

Important Notice: If you wish to change the time or date of the Ceremony, the remaining balance must be paid in full, and you must come to the Office to make this change. **YOU CAN ONLY MAKE ONE CHANGE!** For any cancellations the amount previously paid is non-refundable and cannot be use as payment.



*May God Bless You as You Prepare for the
Sacrament of Matrimony!*

“The image of God is the married couple: the man and the woman; not only the man, not only the woman, but both of them together. This is the image of God: love, God’s covenant with us is represented in that covenant between man and woman. And this is very beautiful!”

- Pope Francis General Audience, April 2, 2014

WEDDING CHECKLIST

- Couples First Interview with Pastor

Appointment Date: _____

(Pre-Nuptial Form & Rules to be completed and brought in at this time)

Groom:

- Recent Baptism Certificate (Needed to book Wedding Date)
- Copy of First Communion Certificate
- Copy of Confirmation Certificate

Bride:

- Recent Baptism Certificate (Needed to book Wedding Date)
- Copy of First Communion Certificate
- Copy of Confirmation Certificate
- Permission Letter (if she lives outside our boundaries)

- Marriage License (90-day prior) or Copy of Civil Certificate
- Sponsors Information: Name, Address, and Telephone Number
- Marriage Preparation Program: Class or Retreat
- Couples Second Interview with 2 witnesses each and Priest.
Appointment Date: _____
- Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
- Rehearsal Date: _____
- Payments

	Date	Amount	Receipt #
Deposit	_____	_____	_____
Payment	_____	_____	_____
Payment	_____	_____	_____
Payment	_____	_____	_____
Payment	_____	_____	_____

IMPORTANT:
 All of the documents, requirements and payments must be received no later than **three months prior** to the Wedding date. The lack of can result in postponement and/or cancelation of your Ceremony. If you wish to change the Wedding date, a new file will be opened.

Revised 10/30/2019