

ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH
2980 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95111 (408) 363-2300
WEDDING INFORMATION

All those wishing to receive a Sacrament must have some form of Sacrament Preparation. We hope that those who are about to make a lifelong commitment of love to one another will approach their decision with great seriousness, as well as with joyful hearts. The arrangements for marriage should begin at least **six months in advance**. If one or both of you are under the age of 19, please allow for an additional month or so.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

_____ **Baptism Certificates**

Baptismal Certificates should be obtained from the church of Baptism and dated within the last six months. * *As soon as the couple obtains the Baptismal Certificate, they will call the parish office to make the first appointment with the priest.*

_____ **Marriage Preparation Certificate**

Either Parish Marriage Preparation or Engaged Encounter Weekend:

- a) Parish Marriage Preparation is a program presented by a trained married couple. These classes are limited to a small number of engaged couples per class and are given in one of the parish rooms or in the home of one of the trained couples. The couple must attend all sessions. **There is a fee of \$100.00 for this program.**
Marriage Preparation Coordinators: Leonides & Mitzi Saguissag (408) 623-4685
- b) **Engaged Encounter Weekend.** The weekend is led by trained married couples. **There is a fee for this program.** It is recommended that the couple makes the reservation six months in advance. Visit www.eesanjose.org for reservation.
- c) **Diocese of San Jose Marriage Preparation:** visit www.dsj.org, select “Ministries”, then select “Family Life & Spirituality”, then select “Marriage Preparation Process” for registration, or call the coordinator **Diana Cuevas Ramos** at diana.cuevasramos@dsj.org if you need more information.

_____ **Natural Family Planning Certificate**

In addition to the above preparation process, you are required to attend an informational session on Natural Family Planning. **For more information, call (408) 983-0124 or visit www.dsj.org select “Ministries, then select “Natural Family Planning” for registration.**

_____ **Marriage License (if the couple is not civilly married):** Please bring this to the follow-up session with the priest.

Where to obtain the Marriage License:

Santa Clara County Clerk-Recorder’s Office
County Government Center East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, First Floor, San Jose, CA 95110
Open Monday – Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fee: **\$80.00** (cash, check, or credit card; subject to change)
Certificate to be used within 90 days.
Blood test is no longer required.
For more information, call: **(408) 299-5688**

_____ **Copy of the Civil Marriage Certificate.** If the couple is civilly married, they must submit a copy of civil marriage certificate to the priest. In this case, the Marriage License is not required.

THE REQUIRED MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE:

1. **First appointment with a priest:** the date and time for the wedding will be reserved and “**Form A**” will be filled out. Couples may receive a book that will help them prepare their religious ceremony. The church reservation is made at this time.
2. **Follow-up appointment with the priest:** after you complete all the necessary preparation, the couple has a follow-up appointment with the priest for the purpose of finalizing the wedding date and “**Form B**” witness questionnaire. This form to be filled out at the last appointment with the priest. **A parent of the bride and a parent of the groom must fill out this form.** If parent is not available, someone who has known the individual for a long time may fill out this form.
3. **Rehearsal:** The rehearsal date and time will be set when the couple reserve the church. It is conducted by the Wedding Coordinator. She will attend the wedding to assist the wedding party before the celebration which will last about one hour. All who are involved in the ceremony should plan to be in the rehearsal.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Church Reservation:	\$750.00 Payable when the church is reserved or \$300.00 minimum deposit.
Refund Policy:	\$300.00 is refundable if parish is informed about the cancelation within three months before the date of the wedding.
Marriage Paperwork Only:	\$125.00 if the couple only needs the priest to prepare the wedding paperwork.

MUSIC

Music: The beauty and sacredness of a wedding is enhanced by the use of good and appropriate music. **The parish is not responsible for music. The following is only suggestion.**

SMG Music Director:

Anna Brown (408) 320-3668

PARISH RULES

1. **Decorations:** Should be removed as soon as the wedding has ended.
2. **Pew bows:** are permitted if you desire. However, they must be attached to the pews with ribbon or plastic hooks. The parish does not allow the use of adhesives or tacks, because these damage the finish of the pews.
3. **Flowers:** are provided by the couple and may be donated to the church. We do not provide flowers' stands.
4. **Photos:** only limited use of “flash photography” during the ceremony. You may take pictures inside the church for 20 minutes after the wedding has ended.
5. **Video Cameras:** are permitted but must be in a stationery position throughout the ceremony, in consultation with the Wedding Coordinator and your priest. We do not allow the use of artificial lights.
6. **Rice, birdseed, petals, confetti, etc.** These are prohibited inside or outside the church, because the danger of people slipping. Please advise your family and friends of this.
7. **Smoking:** Obviously **smoking on our premises is not acceptable.** We trust that your wedding party and guests will preserve the cleanliness of the church and surrounding areas.

“May the Lord bless you abundantly in your new life together.”