



St. Pius V Church

Guidelines and Policies for THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage is sacred to Catholics because it is the sacrament that expresses God's unconditional love for his people. The decision to marry is a lifelong commitment to one another and the faith community of the Church. Careful consideration must be given by those who enter this covenant relationship that is permanent, exclusive, and open to life. Because it is so important, the church has regulations to guard its sanctity and invites all to cooperate as fully as possible in following them.

We rejoice with you and welcome you as you prepare yourselves for the Sacrament of Marriage. We are happy to work with you in that preparation and offer the following guidelines and policies to help you prepare for your wedding at St. Pius V Church. Under normal circumstances, people who are registered with the Parish and regularly attend St. Pius V Church may be married at St. Pius V Church.

We congratulate you on your forthcoming marriage and we will do all we can to help you celebrate it with the dignity befitting such an occasion. We encourage you to pray and worship together in preparation for your marriage.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

Catholics must submit a newly issued (i.e. within six months of the marriage date) copy of their Baptismal Certificate. This may be obtained by writing or calling the parish of their baptism and requesting a copy of their Baptismal Certificate.

A baptized non-Catholic will need a copy of their Baptismal Certificate or other acceptable evidence of their baptism.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES

Originals or photocopies of these certificates are acceptable.

LETTERS OF FREEDOM

These are sworn statements, usually by parents or other family members, signed before a priest or notary public, attesting that the parties have never been married before, in either a church or a civil ceremony, and that there is no known impediment to the marriage. These forms will be provided by the priest.

DISPENSATION

The most common dispensation required is when a Catholic wishes to marry a non-Catholic. The priest will discuss the reason and process for this, or any other, dispensation with the couple.

CIVIL LICENSE

This is obtained from the County Hall of Records, located at 211 Santa Ana Blvd. in Santa Ana. It is valid for 90 days after the date of issue. For further information call 714/834-2500 (#4, #1) or www.ocrecorder.com. This license should be given to your priest two weeks before your wedding date. The ceremony cannot take place without a valid license.

PRE-NUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

This document is completed, individually, with the priest and is for the purpose of determining the freedom and appropriate intentions of the parties in their preparation for marriage, according to Church Law.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The Catholic Church and the Diocese of Orange places great importance on the Sacrament of Marriage and requires that a couple attend one of the following Marriage Preparation Programs:

- A. Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend**
- B. Evenings for the Engaged**
- C. Communication Workshop for the Engaged**

The priest will furnish you with details and schedules for these programs. Upon completion of one, you will be issued a certificate. **Please bring the original certificate to the priest that is helping you in your marriage preparation.** It is highly advisable to look into one of these programs 5 to 6 months in advance.

You will be contacted by Nick and Carol Odowick, parishioners, who are a sponsor couple and who will provide access to **FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication Understanding and Study)** program.

WEDDING LITURGY

The Sacrament of Marriage may be celebrated either within the Celebration of Mass or outside of Mass. You may discuss this choice with your priest who will advise you.

The readings and prayers for the marriage ceremony offer a wide choice. Again the priest will furnish you with a booklet containing these choices and will assist you.

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES MUST BE FOLLOWED CONCERNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

CHURCH PROTOCOL

The Cana Room is provided at St. Pius V Church and is available to the bridal party one (1) hour prior to the wedding time. The parish accepts no responsibility for items lost or mislaid in the Cana Room. The Cana Room must be left in the same condition as it was found. **NO FOOD or DRINKS are allowed** in the Cana Room.

Wedding times at St. Pius V are on Saturdays at 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, and 2:00 pm. We **DO NOT** celebrate weddings on Sundays due to our busy schedule.

Rehearsal times are arranged with the wedding coordinator as suggested by your priest. Contact the receptionist at our parish office to arrange your wedding rehearsal.

FLOWERS

Flowers are the responsibility of the couple and may be coordinated with other couples having their wedding on the same day. The wedding coordinator will help you with this. No more than two (2) arrangements are allowed around the altar and none may include candles. No flower arrangements are permitted on the altar. You are encouraged to leave flowers in the church for the Sunday Masses.

PEW DECORATIONS

The only decorations permitted on the pews are simple ribbons, which cannot be attached by staples, tape, wire, or pins. Ribbons are not to be draped from pew to pew since, during a Mass there is a need for people to exit for Holy Communion. **RUNNERS MAY CAUSE ACCIDENTS AND MAY NOT BE USED.**

RICE, CONFETTI, BIRDSEED, ETC.

It is forbidden to throw rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals, bubbles, gas filled balloons, etc., in the church or on the church grounds.

It is the responsibility of the couple to remove all flowers, ribbons, etc. after the ceremony.

PICTURES

Pictures are permitted during the ceremony but the photographer may not move around the sanctuary to take these pictures. Neither is the photographer to be intrusive or disruptive during the ceremony. Please ensure your photographer is aware of these instructions.

Posed pictures may be taken for 15 minutes only following the ceremony and in cooperation with the coordinator.

Instruct your photographer to see the priest before the ceremony begins.

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Video recording of the ceremony is allowed. However, there are conditions. The camera (only one) is to be stationary and set up prior to the ceremony. No extra lighting or studio effects are allowed. The location of the camera will be determined in consultation with the priest but will be to the side and must not prove a distraction to the ceremony. Please ensure that your videographer is aware of these instructions.

WEDDING MUSIC

The marriage ceremony is celebrated as a religious act in a religious setting. With this in mind, music for the wedding liturgy must be religious in character and draw us to the holiness of marriage and the sacredness of the occasion. Therefore, secular songs and songs from musical shows and movies are deemed inappropriate and not allowed.

As you plan the music for your wedding, please contact Mr. Art Maramba, Music Director, at (626) 991-0391.

MUSIC FEE: \$275.00

For detailed arrangements and selections please be sure to speak with Mr. Art Maramba.

WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES FOR THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE

While marriage is an intensely personal event in the lives of two people, Christian marriage is more than a private celebration of love. It is an act of worship and a Sacrament as well as a wedding ceremony. Because it takes place in the church, the marriage liturgy expresses the faith, not just of a particular couple and their family and friends, but of the whole church. Therefore, it is most important that all the elements of your wedding, including the music, reflect this faith.

Appropriate music is so vital to good liturgy that in 1972 the American Bishops published *Music in Catholic Worship*. This document clarifies the role of music in the liturgy. One of the primary principles is that any piece of music used must be evaluated according to its musical, liturgical, and pastoral effectiveness. This means that the music in question must be "technically, aesthetically, and expressively good," that it must function appropriately in the liturgy itself, and that it must assist those present to express their faith. These criteria apply to wedding liturgies just as they do to any public liturgical event. These guidelines will assist you in planning the most beautiful and appropriate music possible.

APPROPRIATE MUSIC

Your wedding ceremony is a public act of worship and, therefore, the music that you choose must express not only your own faith but also that of the parish community. It must be appropriate for a Catholic liturgical celebration. For this reason, popular love songs that exclude God are liturgically unacceptable before, during, or after the wedding liturgy.

TAPED MUSIC

Because the liturgy is an encounter between the God of Life and the human beings created in God's image, it must be an authentic expression of living persons. Taped music is not allowed.

No outside musicians are allowed at St. Pius V.

WEDDING FEES

There will be a **non-refundable deposit of \$100** on all weddings when scheduled by the priest. (This deposit will be applied to your \$300 church donation.)

The following fees apply at St. Pius V for **ALL** weddings celebrated within a Mass:

Church	\$300.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$100.00
Music	\$275.00
Altar Servers (provided) \$10/each	\$40.00

None of the above fees go to the priest who has helped you. Should you feel that you would like to make a gift/donation to the priest, it should be separate from the above.

All fees (listed above) are to be paid at the Parish Office, at least **ninety (90) days before the wedding date**. At the moment of your transaction, please be sure to get a receipt from the receptionist for all fees pay. *Should there be a revision on payments, the couple will be notified immediately.*

IMPORTANT: At your initial meeting with the priest who is helping you set up the date of your marriage, please discuss music, visiting priest celebrants, coordinators, etc. before signing the MARRIAGE AGREEMENT, provided in the following page.

Additional Resource for Marriage Therapist:

18023 Sky Park Circle, Suite G
Irvine, CA 92614

Raymond Weaver, MA, LMFT
Marriage and Family Therapist
(714) 371 - 6050

*Specialized Services for
Individuals, Couples &
Family*

*Marital & Couples
Pre-Marital / FOCCUS
Grief/Loss
Depression
Anxiety
Job Related Stressors
Parent/Child Conflicts
Childhood Problems*

MARRIAGE AGREEMENT

At the initial meeting with the priest who is helping you set up the date of your marriage, and before signing this page, please be sure to discuss music, visiting priest celebrants, coordinators, etc.

DATE OF WEDDING: _____

GROOM: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

BRIDE: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

PRIEST/DEACON: _____

I have read the Guidelines and Policies for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Pius V Catholic Church and agree to abide by them.

Groom Signature & _____
Bride Signature

Date Arranged: _____

Please request a copy of this completed form, along with the deposit receipt.

(Receptionist: Please file the original in the couple's Wedding Envelope.)