

St. Pius V Church
The SACRAMENT of MATRIMONY
Planning Booklet



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Let's Get Started

Congratulations on your pending nuptials. 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 to help you prepare for your wedding 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.

Wedding Fees

The wedding fee is \$1,000. It includes the church service, (including the use of space), wedding coordination, music, and altar servers.

Deposit

There is a non-refundable deposit of **\$500.00** for all weddings. Receipt of the deposit along with the **Marriage Agreement**, solidifies your date in the calendar.

Payments

Payments can be made via check, debit or credit card, or through the "Online Donations" link on the website. This applies to the deposit as well as the balance of the wedding fee. (The deposit will be applied to the fee).

The full amount for the wedding must be paid at least **ninety (90) days before** the wedding date. At the time of your transaction, you will be provided a receipt for all fees paid.

No portion of the wedding fee goes to the Priest who has helped you. Should you feel that you would like to make a gift/donation to the Priest, it would be separate from the above.

Important: Please discuss music, visiting priest celebrants, coordinators, etc. before signing the Marriage Agreement to ensure St. Pius V can offer what you are looking to do.

Required Documents

1. Baptismal Certificate

Catholics must submit an original Birth Certificate complete with church seal from your baptismal church that has been issued **within 6 months of the date of the wedding**; copies are not accepted. A Baptized non-Catholic will need a copy of your Baptismal Certificate or other acceptable evidence of their Baptism.

This is obtained by writing to or calling the Parish of your Baptism and requesting a copy of the Baptismal Certificate.

2. First Communion and Confirmation Certificates

Originals or photocopies of these certificates are acceptable.

3. 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.

4. Dispensation

The most common dispensation required is one needed when a Catholic wishes to marry a non-Catholic. The reason and process for this or any other dispensation will be discussed with the couple by the Priest.

5. Civil Marriage License

This is obtained from the County Hall, 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.** This is what will be signed on your wedding day and mailed to the county to receive your official Marriage License.

6. 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.

*Please Note – Additional paperwork may be required for either individual based on previous marriages, civil or religious. Any additional paperwork requirements and processes will be discussed with the couple by the priest and must be completed prior to the marriage taking place in the Church.

Marriage Preparation Class

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. You will look them up online, sign up and complete them at a time that is convenient for you.

1. Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend
2. Evenings for the Engaged
3. Online - <https://smartloving.org/orange/>

Upon completion of **one** of the above programs, 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 investigate one of these programs 5 to 6 months in advance of your wedding date.

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.

We offer a wide choice of readings and prayers for the Marriage Ceremony. The Priest will supply you with a booklet containing these choices and will assist you.

The Following Guidelines Must be Followed Concerning the Wedding Liturgy

Church Protocol

A Brides Room is provided at St. Pius V Church and is available to the bridal party 1-hour prior to the wedding time. The parish accepts no responsibility for items lost in the bride's room. The bride's room should be left in the same condition as it was found. There is to be **NO FOOD or DRINKS allowed in Bride's Room.**

Wedding Times

Wedding times at St. Pius V are on Saturdays at 10:00 am; 12:00 noon. Weekday Weddings are available. **We DO NOT celebrate weddings on Sundays** due to our busy Mass schedule. We offer a wedding rehearsal in the days leading up to the wedding. Rehearsal times can be arranged directly with your coordinator or through the Parish Office.

Flowers

Flowers are the responsibility of the individual couple. No more than 2 arrangements are allowed around the Altar, and none may include candles. No flower arrangements are permitted on the Altar. Please work with your wedding coordinator if you have any questions regarding flowers.

** Please Note: No animals or pets are allowed.

Pew Decorations

The only decorations permitted on the pews are simple ribbons which cannot be attached by staples, tape, wire, or pins. Ribbons should not be draped from pew to pew when there is Mass and people will need to exit for Holy Communion. **Runners may cause accidents and may NOT be used.**

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

Rice, Confetti, Bird Seed, etc.

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

Pictures

Pictures are permitted during the ceremony, but the photographer may not move around the sanctuary to take these pictures. Nor is the photographer allowed 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** following the ceremony and in cooperation with the coordinator.

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

Video

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. 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.

Please contact our St. Pius V Music Ministry to plan and select the music for your wedding. NO outside music is allowed unless permitted by the Music Director in advance.

Rochelle Paz: (714) 905-6992

The Diocese of Orange Wedding Music Guidelines

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, 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 either before, during or after the wedding liturgy.

Taped Music - Taped music is not allowed. 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.

NO OUTSIDE musicians are allowed at St. Pius V unless discussed with the Music Director in advance.