

## ST. FRANCES OF ROME CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Guidelines for the Sacrament of Matrimony*

Welcome to Saint Frances of Rome Catholic Church Marriage Preparation Program. We rejoice with you as you begin the preparations for the celebration of your lives together. From the outset, we assure you of our prayers and support. Your wedding is meant to be a happy and meaningful celebration, one that you will long remember. Your wedding day marks the beginning of this commitment that you will make through the Christian sacrament of marriage.

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. – **Genesis 2:24**

### Guidelines and Instructions

We offer these guidelines and instructions to help facilitate your preparation for your life-long commitment of love and fidelity to each other as a married couple, as well as the celebration of the wedding day itself. We encourage you to read it together and to note any questions you may have so that when you meet with the priest or deacon who will officiate at the wedding and the Wedding Coordinator, your talk may be fruitful.

### Who may be married at St. Frances of Catholic Rome Church?

- One party, either the bride or the groom, **must be a registered and a participating member of Saint Frances of Rome Catholic Church for six months.** Who may officiate? The Priests or deacons assigned at St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church. **Catholic clergy outside the parish may officiate at the wedding provided they have received proper delegation from the pastor.**
- **Six Months Preparation-** Marriage is an important Sacrament. A sufficient period is given to its preparation. Like most Catholic dioceses, the Diocese of San Bernardino requires couples to contact the parish church at least six months before the wedding.
- The priest or deacon who officiates is responsible for preparing the couple for marriage. This includes selecting a Preparation Program, paper work, and the planning of the liturgy.

### The following is part of that preparation

- **Baptismal Certificate**- A baptismal certificate issued within the **last six months** must be obtained from the church in which the bride and the groom are baptized. Anyone baptized in another Christian Church or denomination needs to present a certificate of Baptism. After the celebration of the marriage liturgy, a notification that it has taken place will be sent to the church of baptism of the Catholic parties.
- **Pre-nuptial Examination Form**- *Each of the parties should be interviewed by a priest or deacon or another suitable lay person appointed by the pastor under oath and alone.*
- **Freedom to Marry Form**- This is a testimony from a parent, relative or close friend, that each person to be married is free to do so. The Priest will explain the procedure for obtaining this form.
- **Dispensation Form** -*There is an obligation in the Catholic Church stating that Catholics are expected to marry Catholics. In the case of inter-religious marriage (marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized), the Catholic party must be dispensed (get a dispensation form) from that obligation by the Bishop. The priest or deacon assisting in this wedding will petition the Bishop for this on the couple's behalf.*
- **Dissolution of Previous Marriage** -There is extra work to be done (or proof that it has been done) if there has been any previous marriages. This work must be done before preparation for the wedding to continue.
- **Marriage Preparation Certificate**-*The Church requires couples to attend and complete a marriage preparation program. The policy was developed because of our belief as Catholic Christians in the sacredness of the marriage commitment. A couple is required to attend any of the following programs: Pre-Cana Conference, Engaged Encounter, PMI/FOCCUS or online marriage preparation classes.*
- **Civil Marriage License**- The couple must have a California Marriage License. License can be obtained from the County Recorder's Office. {License must be filed 3 weeks prior to the wedding date.} Please choose two witnesses who will sign the license during wedding ceremony
- The couple must choose one or two people from among their friends and family to proclaim the **Word of God** at their wedding

### **Diocesan Rules**

You are encouraged to contact your priest and begin formal marriage preparation as soon as you make a decision to marry. As a minimum requirement you must contact the priest and begin your preparation at **least six months** before the proposed wedding date.

This is not intended as a "**Waiting Period**" but rather one of Preparation. Therefore the process of such preparation should begin at the first meeting with the priest. Concern with the

immediate preparation for the wedding itself can make it difficult for the couple to benefit fully from the preparation itself. Thus it is highly desirable for the couple to complete all the steps of preparation at least two months before the wedding date.

**The following is part of the preparation**

**Special considerations:**

Persons under the age of 19 who wish to marry will be asked to receive individual evaluative counseling before the marriage can be arranged.

**Pre-Cana Conference-** One day (Saturday) or two evenings as per a schedule a couple will be given or online at [www.themarriagegroup.com](http://www.themarriagegroup.com)

Or

**Engaged Encounter-** A weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) to be shared by the couple with others preparing for marriage. This weekend experience assists in developing communication skills by giving each person the opportunity for honest, intensive sharing about their future lives together. The schedule for the Engaged Encounter may be obtained from the Wedding Coordinator or parish office. Attendance at Engaged Encounter is mandatory for all couples.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is held every Saturday from 8:30 to 9:45 A.M. or on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9:45pm. You must plan to have your confession heard at least two (2) weeks prior to your wedding day.

**The Baptismal Certificate or Proof, Freedom to Marry, Pre-Cana Conference, Engaged Encounter**

You must give the above **Marriage Preparation materials** to the priest or deacon who will officiate at your wedding. After your first meeting with him, you will know what direction your preparations will take.

**“Together for Life” Booklet Wedding Liturgy**

You must spend time together reading the many prayers and scripture readings found in **“Together for Life” booklet from which you will make choices for your wedding liturgy.** Two months before the date of your wedding ceremony, you must get together with the priest or

deacon to make the final selections. You must call the choir director at least 2 months in advance of the wedding date to make all musical arrangements. The Church **Wedding Coordinator** will meet with you prior to your wedding. The coordinator will assist with all logistical details and will be present at the rehearsal as well as at the Wedding.

### **Wedding Coordinators**

Imelda & Ricardo Serrato 951-258-7035

Isabel & Deacon Trinidad Guadarrama 951-674-6881 x225

### **Wedding Ceremony Reservation**

#### **Dates & Times**

Wedding ceremonies are scheduled on **first and fourth Saturday's** of the month at **12:00 P.M. or 2:00 P.M.** Due to the variety of parish activities, scheduling at other times on Saturdays are **not** possible.

**\*\*Once all requirements have been fulfilled and marriage packet has been reviewed and approved,** Please contact the parish secretary at (951) 674-6881, x 228 for reservation.

***Stipend fees are as follows:*** A onetime payment must be made

1. Matrimony: \$750.00
2. An additional \$150 are required if the couple requests a priest who is not from the parish to ensure for their proper remuneration

### **Wedding Day**

**You have the use of the church for one and a half hour. This includes photographs.** In order for the Wedding liturgy to begin promptly, **the couple should arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony.** You should realize that a late start of the liturgy might require shortening or even elimination of certain parts of the ceremony or Photographs.

- **The 12:00 P.M. Wedding Party and photographers must vacate the church by 1:20 P.M. at the latest and no pictures will be allowed after 1:30 P.M.**
- **The 2 P.M. Wedding Party and photographers must vacate the church by 3:20 P.M. at the latest and no pictures will be allowed after 3:30 P.M.**

**We, as Catholics must respect our Church and wear properly in the ceremony. DO NOT WEAR the following as we approach the Altar of the Lord:**

- **Low-cut, sleeveless blouses or dresses**
- **Skirts above the knees**
- **Slits behind the skirts that are too high**
- **Shorts, Jeans, and/or Flip-flops**

### **Church Wedding Coordinator**

A church wedding coordinator will contact you to arrange a meeting prior to your wedding. At that meeting the logistics of the ceremony will be decided. At that time the balance of the church fee should have been paid at the parish office. The coordinator will attend your rehearsal and will be present at the wedding.

Rehearsal date is arranged between you and the Wedding Coordinator. The allotted time for rehearsal is one and a half hour. Date and time will be determined by the wedding coordinator and the couple. It will not be extended beyond the scheduled time so the couple must be on time for the rehearsal. The Wedding Coordinator has been instructed to wait 15 minutes.

***(Please note: the Wedding Coordinator serves his/her ministry on a voluntary basis).***

### **During the Ceremony**

You will be given the option of choosing the following three **(3)** symbolisms within your wedding ceremony, namely:

- **Nuptial or Unity Candle:** This symbol uses 3 candles. The side candles are lit by members of the family, often the mothers of the bride and groom. The center candle is lit by the couple after the exchange of rings.

- **“Arras”**: This custom involves the passing of blessed coins (“arras”) from husband to wife symbolizing the sharing of material resources.
- **“Lazo de Union”**: This custom involves the draping of a large rosary (“lazo/rosario”) around the couple to symbolize their unbroken unity.

### **Flowers and Decoration**

-The couple and their entourage must never rearrange church furnitures. Couples are encouraged to discuss with the wedding coordinators

-The sanctuary area and the altar are moderately decorated so that the sacrifice of the Mass takes prominence during the liturgical celebration

### **Photographers/Videographers**

#### ***Instructions;***

We have listed below the general regulations for all weddings at St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church. We ask that these regulations be respected and followed. Thank you!

- Video equipment inside the sanctuary must be stationary, including all video cameras in the right or left aisle of the church. **No equipment is allowed in the center aisle.**
- The use of flashbulbs for photography is not permitted. Also, no additional equipment to enhance either the lighting of the sanctuary or the recording of sound is permitted.
- For the 12:00 P.M. wedding mass, the photography/video session must finish at 1:20pm
- For the 2 P.M wedding mass, the photography/video session must finish at 3:20pm

### **Music & Choir**

Please keep in mind that **all music chosen needs to be appropriate for the sacred liturgy**. Some love songs, while beautiful to listen to, may be more appropriate at the reception than at the wedding itself. A general guideline is that any sung music (by cantor, soloist, or choir) should be religious in nature.

Recorded or taped music should never be used within your wedding liturgy to replace the cantor, the choir, the organist or other instrumentalists.

At St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church, choir groups and musicians are available to play and sing for weddings. For a reasonable stipend, arrangements can be made through the choir director.

Visiting vocalists (e.g., friends of the bride and groom) are allowed to add one (1) solo (of sacred nature only) at Gift Preparation or at Communion.

***Note: If you would like other choir, please notify Annette Betts, before you make any arrangements***

**St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church Wedding Contacts:**

**Parish Office Secretary:** Leslie Aceves (951)674-6881x 228

**Church Choir Director:** Annette K. Betts (951) 263-3615

***Wedding Coordinators:***

Imelda & Ricardo Serrato 951-258-7035

Isabel & Deacon Trinidad Guadarrama 951-674-6881 x225