



CHRIST CATHEDRAL PARISH
ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ORANGE

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WEDDING WELCOME LETTER

Revised on Jan. 1, 2023

Dear Grooms and Brides in Christ who seek to be married at Christ Cathedral:

Congratulations! We are delighted that you have chosen to make a lifelong commitment to one another. We join in thanking Almighty God for showing His love to you and to all the world through you in the blessing of married life and love. It is our privilege to help you prepare to celebrate your marriage in the Roman Catholic Church.

Here are some primary considerations. They should answer most of your questions about how weddings are conducted in this Christ Cathedral parish. What is written here is what you can expect of us, and what we will expect of you.

The date and time of your wedding should be discussed and confirmed in the Cathedral calendar. It is not advisable to schedule the reception without knowing the availability of the Cathedral. The date you desire must be available on the Cathedral calendar and on that of the priest/deacon who officiates your wedding.

If you would like to have a priest/deacon from outside Christ Cathedral parish to officiate at your wedding, he will obtain delegation from the rector of Christ Cathedral, and normally he should take care of the paperwork and prepare you for marriage. In addition, if he is not from our Diocese of Orange, he will submit to the rector his newly issued good standing letter signed by his superior/(arch)bishop.

A wedding may take place within Mass or outside Mass. (1) A wedding between two baptized Catholics ought to be celebrated within Mass. (2) A wedding between a baptized Catholic and a baptized Christian may be celebrated within Mass. (3) A wedding between a baptized Catholic and non-baptized person is celebrated outside Mass in normally a ceremony. However, a request to have Mass is mostly granted. Either (2) or (3), hence, only baptized Catholics may receive the Holy Communion.

Both the groom and the bride please come to attend only one (1) Wedding Preparation Information meeting in-person on the 3rd Sunday, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, on the 4th floor of the tallest building of Tower of Hope. The dates are posted at <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/sacrament/weddings/>.

About the Wedding Liturgy, **Mrs. Ana Guardado-Chavez** (aguardado@christcathedralparish.org, 714-620-7862, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm) will contact you **within three (3) weeks after the Wedding Preparation Information meeting** to confirm your wedding date and time, wedding coordinator, music contact person, paperwork contact person (normally a parish's deacon), and church offering.

The Wedding Coordinator will contact you about the rehearsal date & time, readings & prayers, altar servers & sacristan, flowers & decorations, photography & video, etc. She is responsible to assist the bride and groom, your family, relatives, and friends, the wedding party, and the priest/deacon. She conducts the rehearsal and coordinates the wedding party, lectors, florists, and photographers on the day of the wedding.

The Music Contact Person will contact you for further assistance since the nature of the wedding liturgy is always respected when considering musical selections and musicians.

Church Offering: It is customary to make a donation to the Church for her utilities. For parishioners, \$1,100 is our suggested donation. For non-parishioners within Diocese, \$1,600 is our suggested donation. For non-parishioners outside Diocese, \$2,100 is our suggested donation. Besides, we collect \$790 from each wedding for some additional fees of music (\$450), wedding coordinator (\$230), altar servers (\$40), powerpoint (\$40) and sacristan (\$30). We are happy to assist you if you have any financial hardships.

You please obtain the following required papers:

1. Baptismal Certificate

Catholic Baptized groom/bride obtains your NEWLY issued baptismal certificate from the church where you were baptized. Non-Catholic Baptized groom/bride also submits your validly baptismal certificate. This serves to verify that you are Catholic or Non-Catholic. **Please bring with you and submit to the priest/deacon the baptismal certificates at the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.**

2. First Communion and Confirmation Certificates

Catholic Baptized groom/bride submits Xerox copies of these two documents. If they are issued at the time the sacraments received, they are acceptable. If you lose them, please obtain your NEWLY issued certificates from the church where you received the sacraments. **Please bring with you and submit to the priest/deacon the certificates at the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.**

3. Testimony to Prove Free State to Marry

In the presence of the priest/deacon or notary, four (4) forms of the Testimony to Prove Free State to Marry are to be complete and signed by two family members, relatives or friends of the groom and by that of the bride to state that both groom and bride are free to marry in the Catholic Church. The form is posted at <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/sacrament/weddings/>. **Please bring with you and submit to the priest/deacon all four complete and signed forms at the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.**

Please note that if the groom/bride has whatever previous marriage occurred, it must be annulled and granted according to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church prior to the wedding. We are happy to assist you to get its paperwork done and submitted to the Diocese. **Please bring with you and submit to the priest/deacon all Xerox copies of your previous marriage licenses, final divorce degrees, and/or granted annulments if applicable at the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.**

4. Prenuptial Questionnaire

Two forms of the Prenuptial Questionnaire are to be given to the groom and bride **to complete, sign, and submit them to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.** The forms serve to verify your current marriage status and your core marriage intention.

- a. Widow, Widower, Separated, or Divorced
- b. Wish to validate your civil marriage with your current spouse at Christ Cathedral
- c. Wish to re-marry another spouse at Christ Cathedral
- d. Still single, never married before, wish to marry your first Fiancé at Christ Cathedral
- e. Freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage
- f. Love and honor each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives
- g. Accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church

5. Marriage Preparation Class

Attending a Marriage Preparation Class is a required part of the preparation for marriage in the Catholic Church. After completion of the Class of your choice, you will receive a certificate. **Please turn in the Certificate to the priest/deacon no later than two (2) months prior to the wedding date.** You take the class in person or online at

<https://orangecounty.engagedencounter.com/reservations/>

6. Marriage License

Newly issued and blank Marriage License (without a priest/deacon's signature) is obtained from the County Courthouse and valid for 90 days from the day of issuance. The Orange County Courthouse is located at 211 West Santa Ana, Room 201. Business hours are Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. **Please submit to the priest/deacon Marriage License no later than two (2) months prior to the wedding date.**

If you currently have the civil marriage with your current spouse and if this current marriage has never been blessed in the Catholic Church and you wish it to be blessed by priest/deacon at Christ Cathedral, **please bring with you and submit to the priest/deacon the Xerox copy of your currently civil Marriage License at *the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.***

We pray that the Lord continues to enrich and strengthen you by a special rite of marriage and you feel happy to assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity as you go through the process of completing these required documents and following the guidelines. We hope that your contact with us will be pleasant and an encouragement to further your involvement in the life of the Church. We look forward to being part of your special day and see you at ***the Wedding Preparation Information meeting.*** Again, the dates are posted at <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/sacrament/weddings/>.

Through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, may God bless you abundantly and bring to completion your love!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Bao Thai
Rector of Christ Cathedral