

***“And the Two
Shall Become One”***

Mark 10:8

Wedding Guidelines

Christ Cathedral

***Diocese of Orange
California***

YOUR WEDDING AT CHRIST CATHEDRAL:

First and foremost, we join in thanking the Almighty God for shining His love upon you through the blessing and sanctity of married life. We are delighted that you have chosen to make a lifelong commitment to each other, in the eyes of God. It is our privilege to walk you through the steps of preparing for marriage at Christ Cathedral.

Following are primary considerations which have been designed to answer most of your questions and to assist you on how weddings conducted at the Cathedral:

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE:

The following meeting and class are *mandatory* and must be taken by both the bride and groom:

1. Attending one (1) **Wedding Orientation meeting**. For registration, please visit <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/>.
2. At Christ Cathedral, we require all our couples who will be married here to prepare for their marriage with the formation program called Witness to Love. This program has proven results in helping couples start their marriage on strong foundations. The program has four main components: (1) the use of the pre-marital inventory called FOCCUS (2) regular meetings with a mentor couple chosen by you (3) instruction in natural family planning (4) a day-long retreat at Christ Cathedral. This program is gone over in detail at the Wedding Orientation meeting. *Please turn in the certificate of completion to the priest/deacon helping you with paperwork at least two (2) months prior to the wedding.*

DATE, TIME & LOCATION:

Submission of the Wedding Preference form at a Wedding Orientation at least nine (9) months before the desired wedding date is required to request a time, date, and location of your wedding.

Wedding ceremonies are only available on Fridays and Saturdays.

It is not advisable to schedule the **reception** without confirmation of the wedding date.

The Liturgical Administrator, Ana Guardado-Chavez (714) 620 - 7862, aguardado@christcathedralparish.org (See last page for parish office hours), will contact you approximately *three (3) weeks after the Wedding Orientation meeting* to confirm your wedding date, time & location, wedding coordinator, music contact person, paperwork contact person (normally a deacon), and church offering.

DOCUMENTS YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PRESENT:

Preparing for your wedding at the Cathedral entails the following documents. If possible, please bring all the applicable documents listed below to the Wedding Orientation (questions about documents can be answered at Wedding Orientation).

1. **Baptismal Certificate:** Newly-issued Baptismal Certificate from the church where you were baptized (**Baptismal Certificates older than one year on day of Wedding Orientation will not be accepted**). Non-Catholic baptized individuals will also need to submit a valid Baptismal Certificate. This serves to verify that you are either Catholic or Non-Catholic.
2. **First Communion and Confirmation Certificates:** If they were issued at the time the sacraments were received, their photocopies will be acceptable.
3. **Testimony to Prove Free State to Marry:** Two people who have known the groom since he was 18 and two people who have known the bride since she was 18 need to complete this document (a total of 4 people). Four (4) copies of the “Testimony to Prove Free State to Marry” are to be completed, signed and witnessed before a priest/deacon or notary public. The people who complete the form can be family members. To download the form, visit <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/>.
4. **Previous Marriages:** If either the bride or groom has ever been part of a previous marriage, under any circumstance (in the church, civilly, or otherwise), it must be annulled according to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church prior to the wedding at the Cathedral, or the marriage must have ended by the death of one of the spouses. We cannot book the wedding date, time & location without knowing the previous marriages have been annulled or ended by the death of one of the spouses; as such, it is better to speak with a priest or deacon to begin resolving the annulment prior to attending the wedding orientation meeting. You are required to provide copies of granted annulments or the death certificate of previous spouse(s), if applicable.
5. **Pre-nuptial Questionnaire:** As part of your wedding requirement at the Cathedral, two copies of the Pre-nuptial Questionnaire are to be completed, dated, and signed by the bride and groom. The Pre-nuptial Questionnaire serves to verify your current marital status and your marriage intentions. This document will be provided at the Wedding Orientation.
6. **Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion:** This document is only required for a Catholic to marry a non-Christian or a non-Catholic baptized. Please ask for this document after a deacon is assigned to complete your paperwork during your first meeting with him.

7. **Civil Marriage License:** If you are legally married and wish to have your current marriage blessed in the Catholic Church at the Cathedral.
8. **Marriage License:** Newly issued and blank Marriage License may be obtained from the County Courthouse and must be valid for 90 days from the date 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 turn it in to the priest/deacon two (2) months prior to the wedding.*

VISITING PRIESTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

If you would like to have a priest/deacon from outside the Cathedral officiate your wedding, he will need to do the following:

1. Handle and execute all necessary paperwork required of a visiting priest.
2. If the priest/deacon is not a member of the Diocese of Orange, he will need to submit to the Rector a current letter of good standing signed by his superior/(arch) bishop. *Please turn it in to the Rector two (2) months prior to the wedding.*
3. Obtain your delegation letter from the Rector *two (2) months prior to the wedding.*

WEDDING OF VARYING RELIGIOUS FAITHS:

A wedding between two individuals of varying religious faiths may take place through one of the following guidelines:

1. A wedding between **two baptized Catholics** is celebrated within a Catholic Mass.
2. A wedding between a **baptized Catholic** and a **baptized non-Catholic** is celebrated without a Catholic Mass. Please fill out the form “**Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion.**” Who this document needs to be approved by depends on where you the Catholic party resides; as such, please wait for help with the deacon assigned to you in order to ensure you fill out the proper documentation.
3. A wedding between a **baptized Catholic** and either a **Catechumen** (someone seeking Baptism in the Catholic Church) or a **non-Christian** is celebrated without a Catholic Mass. Please fill out the form “**Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion.**” Who this document needs to be approved by depends on where you the Catholic party resides; as such, please wait for help with the deacon assigned to you in order to ensure you fill out the proper documentation.

The “Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion” can be found online at <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/>

THE RITE OF MATRIMONY:

1. The Liturgy

You will be given a copy of the “Together for Life” booklet to guide you in choosing the prayers and the readings for your wedding celebration. Your priest or deacon as well as your wedding coordinator, will be happy to assist you with these selections. The vows you exchange at your wedding celebration are specifically prescribed by the Roman Catholic Church and cannot be altered or changed in any way to ensure the validity of the sacrament. Those who have prepared their own vows will be asked to incorporate those sentiments in different ways as part of the wedding celebration.

- 2. Types of Ceremonies – The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Together for Life, pg. 10.** The priest/deacon helping you plan your wedding ceremony will guide you in choosing which form of the rite is most appropriate for your wedding. There are three (3) forms:
- (1) Matrimony within Mass
 - (2) Matrimony without Mass, and
 - (3) Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian without Mass.

See “Wedding of Various Religious Faith” above for required documents.

3. Music

All music before, during, and after the wedding liturgy reflect Christian meanings, reverence, and faithfulness of the Marriage Rite, and is therefore sacred in nature and important that only sacred music is used for your wedding liturgy.

For your wedding at Christ Cathedral, one Cathedral Staff Organist will be available to play for your ceremony, in addition to a Parish Cantor to sing the sung parts of the ceremony. The cantor will also serve as your wedding Soloist. If you would like to book a choir, one of our Cathedral Choirs (either the Cathedral Schola, a quartet of professional singers, a Spanish or Vietnamese one) or the Contemporary Choirs (a small group of young adult singers) can help support the congregational singing as well as provide excellent choral music for your wedding celebration. Please speak with our Music Administrator for more details. While only Cathedral Staff Organists will play for your wedding and only Cathedral Musicians will serve as cantor or choir for the liturgy, the use of an outside singer, while not encouraged, is permitted on one or two selections. The outside singer should be a professional singer who is trained in sacred literature. Our sacred liturgy requires a highly trained singer, not just a friend or family member who “has a nice voice”. If you would like to add flourish to your celebrations, our Cathedral Instrumentalists, all professionals who play regularly for the parish, are also available. They can be booked upon request for an additional fee. We will discuss this during your wedding music appointment.

Please contact **Lauren McCaul, Cathedral Music Administrator**, to begin the process of planning your wedding music at (714) 620 - 7912, lmccaul@christcathedralparish.org. Wedding music planning can be done well in advance of the wedding but *should be completed 2 months prior to your wedding*.

4. Photography and Videography

Photographers/Videographers are to be unobtrusive as possible. In other words, you are to observe the basic “line of sight” rule throughout the ceremony. Please have the photography team observe the following guidelines.

- Do NOT to position yourselves in the following areas:
 - In front of the center (nave) pews of front row seats
 - In any part of the sanctuary area
- Flash photography during the ceremony is prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.
- All photographs, videos, and livestreams are to be used for private use only and not to be sold or used for marketing purposes.
- Please speak with your coordinators for details and arrangements.
- *Please see attached diagrams for photographer positions.*
- Couples may take photos in the ceremony location and designated outdoor spaces following their wedding. Access to other areas is not permitted.
- Photo sessions are only allowed on the wedding day. For photography on a different date, a photo permit must be obtained from the Hospitality and Events Department. Call (714) 620-7920 or email events@rcbo.org

5. Wedding Decorations, Floral Arrangements, and Props

Marriage is a sacramental ceremony. To maintain safety and cleanliness at each celebration, please observe the following guidelines.

- No more than two arrangements are to be used in the worship space.
- The church does not provide any floral equipment, stands, or pedestals.
- All floral arrangements must be in complete readiness when brought to the church.
- All floral arrangements are to be delivered no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the wedding ceremony. We advise delivering boutonnieres and corsages to families’ prior to arriving to the ceremony to avoid last minute mishaps.
- No unity candles, other candles, or aisle runners.
- No flower petals (real or fake), rice, bird seed, confetti, and bubbles allowed during and after all wedding ceremonies.

6. Children in the Matrimony Procession

Children in the wedding party, such as flower girls and ring bearers, must be of the age of childhood maturity at ages 6 or above. Younger children are not at the approved age for these significant roles.

HOW TO PLAN YOUR WEDDING CELEBRATION:

1. Wedding Arrival Time

Each wedding celebration must begin promptly at its scheduled time out of respect for the many liturgies and other activities that are scheduled at the parish. The church is on a strict schedule with many other obligations, responsibilities, and masses. Your party, parents, and anyone else in the ceremony should be notified that they are to be in attendance 30 minutes prior to the Wedding.

2. Wedding Rehearsal

When a date and time has been sent for your wedding, you will be assigned a wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator will secure your rehearsal date and time, explain the expectations, and guide you through your wedding celebration. Rehearsals will be conducted by the wedding coordinator and will last no longer than 60 minutes.

3. Wedding Coordinators

The wedding coordinator will make her initial contact with the bride and groom within 4 months of the wedding and is available to confer regarding questions about the rehearsal and ceremony. The wedding coordinators will assist the Bride and Groom in all the planning details of the church ceremony in accord with the protocols and procedures of Christ Cathedral Parish. She will be present prior and throughout your ceremony to assure the smooth and orderly flow of the liturgy and the comfort of guests, and will tend to the wedding party, direct florists, photographers, and ushers.

4. Etiquette

The church is a sacred place of worship. Respectful behavior is expected from all who enter the church. Loud talking, shouting, smoking, eating, or drinking etc., are not appropriate at any time in any location. We ask that you, the bride and groom, to kindly remind your wedding party and guests of these practices.

5. Reconciliation – Trilingual

It is appropriate for the Bride and Groom to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way of preparing for your wedding day. You should plan to attend regular reconciliation times at the parish or set an appointment for a private confession in the days before your wedding celebration. Reconciliation time will not be available during your wedding rehearsal or on the day of your wedding. For your convenience, the parish reconciliation times are Fridays 6:00 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am.

TO RESERVE A VENUE FOR A “RECEPTION” ON CAMPUS:

Please contact the Hospitality and Events Department at (714) 620-7920 or email events@rcbo.org

SCHEDULE OF FEE:

Fee includes marriage preparation course (required to be completed at Christ Cathedral for those within the Diocese of Orange) and liturgical services. Couples where both the groom and bride reside outside the Diocese of Orange are to complete their marriage preparation at a parish within their home diocese.

Venue	Max Capacity	Parishioner* (currently registered for at least 9 months)	Non-parishioner, in the Diocese of Orange*	From outside the Diocese of Orange**
Cathedral	2,200	\$2,090	\$2,590	\$2,890
St. Callistus Chapel	150	\$2,090	\$2,590	\$2,890
Chapel in the Sky	80	\$1,950	\$2,450	\$2,750
Arboretum	800	\$1,790	\$2,290	\$2,590
Large Gallery	250	\$1,650	\$2,150	\$2,450
* \$700 non-refundable deposit is due and payable upon confirmation of wedding ceremony venue, date, and time (includes marriage preparation course). ** \$500 non-refundable deposit is due and payable upon confirmation of wedding ceremony venue, date, and time (does not include marriage preparation course).				

1. Christ Cathedral's Marriage Preparation Course uses the following programs:

- FOCCUS Inventory
- Witness to Love
- NFP Basics

Please do not register for these courses until your wedding ceremony venue, date, and time are confirmed and the non-refundable deposit is paid. A member from Christ Cathedral's Marriage Preparation Course will contact you with complete instructions.

2. **Note:**

Fees are subject to change and *will be due no later than 30 days prior to your wedding.*

At the time your wedding date is set, a non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required as well as the \$200 Marriage Preparation cost and you will have up to 7 days to bring it *into* the parish office.

The remaining balance is due 30 days *before* the date of your wedding. Cash or checks are accepted for all fee payments. Checks should be made out to "Christ Cathedral Parish". Credit card payments are accepted but are subject to a 1.5% fee.

Since the fee is given to the parish and not the priest/deacon officiating your wedding, you may wish to offer him a thank you gift.

YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYER:

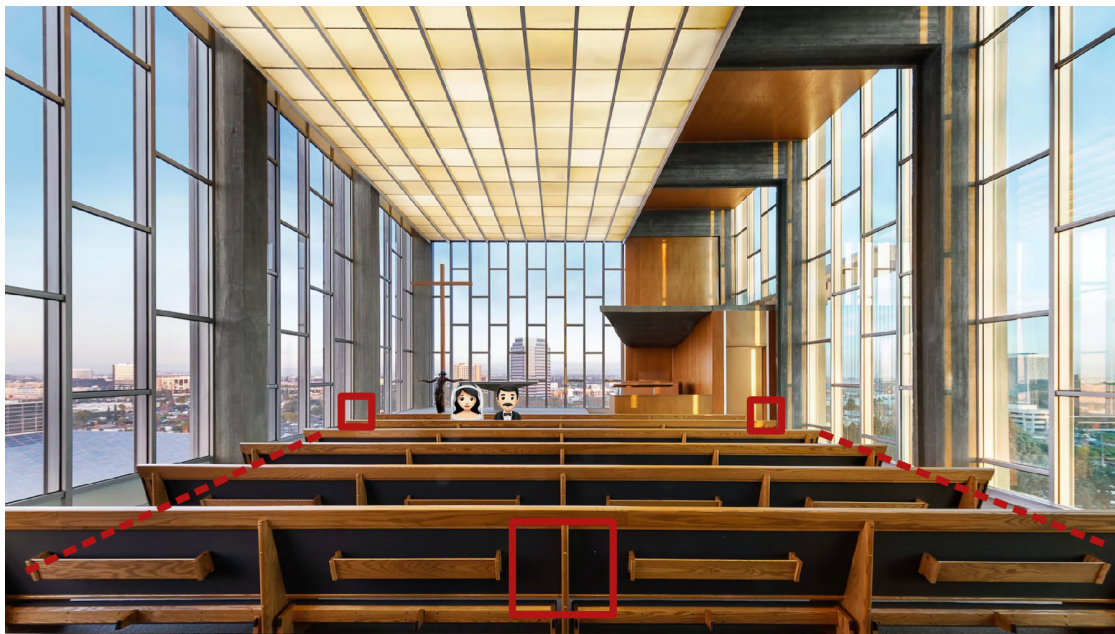
We pray that the Lord continues to enrich and strengthen you through the special rite of marriage. We hope that your experience with us will be pleasant, and an encouragement to further your involvement in the life of the Church. We will make every effort and consideration to accommodate your wishes while adhering to the Canon Laws of the Roman Catholic Church. We look forward to being part of your special day.

Through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, may God bless you abundantly and bring to completion your respect and love for each other!

PHOTOGRAPHER POSITIONS:



Permitted Photographer Positions in **Christ Cathedral**.
Please speak with your coordinator for further details.



Permitted Photographer Positions in the **Chapel in the Sky**.
Please speak with your coordinator for further details.



Permitted Photographer Positions in the **Arboretum**.
Please speak with your coordinator for further details.



CHRIST CATHEDRAL PARISH

12141 South Lewis Street

Garden Grove, CA 92840

(714) 971-2141

christcathedralcalifornia.org

Parish@Christcathedralparish.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday – Sunday | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

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