

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA
714.842.3000 • WWW.SVDPHB.ORG



Congratulations on your engagement and your desire to receive the Sacrament of Marriage!

We are honored that you have selected Saint Vincent de Paul Church
as the parish where you will begin your marriage.

This document outlines the basic procedures and guidelines for celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at
Saint Vincent de Paul Church. Should you have any questions about the guidelines please
contact a parish priest for clarification.

PLANNING AND SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

- ❖ Your first step in requesting a wedding ceremony at Saint Vincent de Paul Church is to contact the priest. The priests are the only ones who are able to provide information about available dates and times relative to the priest's and parish's schedule.
- ❖ Marriages at Saint Vincent de Paul Church take place on Saturdays at 10:00 AM, 12:00 NOON and 2:00 PM.
No weddings take place after 2:00 PM on Saturdays.
Friday afternoon or evening weddings may be planned if a priest is available.
- ❖ A wedding date must be set at least six (6) months prior to the anticipated marriage.
- ❖ The bride and/or groom should be registered members of Saint Vincent de Paul Church. If one or both are registered they must make an appointment with one of our priests before a date can be set. *If the bride and groom are not registered members or do not live within the confines of the parish boundaries or do not attend Mass at Saint Vincent de Paul Church it would be appropriate to be married in the Church where the bride and/or groom live.*
- ❖ If the bride and groom are registered in another parish or attend Mass regularly in another parish or live outside of the area and wish to be married in this Church by our priest, permission must be given by one of our parish priests. Some connection with the parish (family, etc.) should be established. If permission is given, a letter of permission by their Pastor must also be obtained. If the couple lives locally they will meet with the Saint Vincent de Paul parish priest who will oversee the marriage preparation process.

- ❖ All weddings of “non-parish members”, recently registered parishioners or those showing no pattern of financial support require an additional \$700.00 toward the Church Ministries to assist long-standing members in their ongoing support of the church.
- ❖ If the bride and groom would like a priest other than our parish priest to celebrate their marriage ceremony, permission and delegation must be given by one of our priests.

CHURCH DONATION and FEES

- ❖ A non-refundable deposit of \$200.00 is required to secure your wedding date within one week after setting the date with the priest. The remaining balance of the donation and additional fees can be paid in installments, but all monies are to be paid 30 days prior to the wedding.

There is no “charge” to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. This offering supports ongoing Church Ministries. It is not a gift for the officiating priest.

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| ◆ Church Donation for Saint Vincent de Paul parish members
(includes the \$200 deposit): | \$700.00 | |
| ◆ Additional donation for non-parishioners and newly registered: | | \$700.00 |
| ◆ Two Altar Servers: | \$40.00 | |
| ◆ Wedding Coordinator & Rehearsal: | \$250.00 | |
| ◆ Organist: | \$200.00 | |
| ◆ Cantor/Singer: | \$200.00 | |
| ◆ Total for parish members: | \$1390.00 | |
| ◆ Total for non-parishioners and newly registered: | | \$2090.00 |
- ❖ The Church Donation and Fees are negotiable based upon need in relation to other wedding expenses. Please discuss your concerns with the priest.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

NOTE: All of the documents are collected by the couple and then given to the priest at an appointment at least one month prior to the wedding date.

1. BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

A NEW (recently issued) certificate of baptism obtained within six months prior to the date of the wedding is required. This must be a new original copy recently obtained from the Church of baptism.

A machine duplicate is NOT acceptable. Write or phone the parish of baptism and request that your certificate be sent to you.

2. FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES

These may be originals or copies.

3. LETTERS OF FREEDOM

Parents OR two competent witnesses of EACH person to be married must sign a statement in the presence of a priest or a Notary Public testifying that the person who desires the Sacrament of Marriage has never been married previously, either by a civil or religious ceremony, and is free to marry in the Catholic Church. Exceptions for those who have received an annulment. Forms are provided by the Church.

4. MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

Instructions concerning Christian marriage are required. There are several options available for preparation; please see the brochures in your wedding packet. After completion of the instruction a certificate will be issued. Return the certificate to the priest. When necessary, the priest may require further counseling or instruction.

5. CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE

You must obtain / purchase the Marriage License in person. The wedding cannot take place without the license being in the possession of the priest. The license is valid for 90 days. A blood test is NOT required.

The license must be brought to the Parish Office at least one month prior to the wedding with all other required documents. It will be signed in the Church by the priest and witnesses after the wedding ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will return the signed license to the County on the first business day after the ceremony.

Note that you may obtain a Certificate of Marriage Record 6 to 8 weeks after the ceremony from the County Clerk-Recorder. Contact:

Orange County Clerk-Recorder
Attn. Vital Records
P.O. Box 23
Santa Ana, California 92702
Phone: 877.445.8988

Additional license information may be found online at: <http://ocrecorder.com/services/records/marriage>.

There are no exceptions regarding the required documents. They must be returned to the priest. They are required in order for the wedding to take place. Plan ahead: some documents may be difficult to obtain and the marriage preparation program/retreat will require a minimum of eight hours or a weekend to complete.

CEREMONY INFORMATION

❖ Musicians

- ◆ For an organist and cantor, the couple must contact the parish organist, Grant Sevdayan, at 310.200.7613 or email: gsevdayan@svdphb.org. Out of parish additional singers, music arrangements and other musicians must be approved by Mr. Sevdayan and the priest at least three months prior to the wedding.
- ◆ If the couple decides to provide their own organist, an "organist bench fee" of \$200.00 is also paid to the parish organist who will also be present at the Wedding Mass to oversee the church sound system.
- ◆ Saint Vincent de Paul Church employs professional cantors who are familiar and knowledgeable in liturgical music. They cannot be replaced by family members or friends. An outside musician may be permitted to sing a prelude or an appropriate hymn during the liturgy.
- ◆ Mariachi music is not permitted before, during or after the ceremony in the church or courtyard.

❖ **Church Environment and Flowers**

- ◆ Since the church building serves the liturgical needs of the people of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, the environments set for the liturgical seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter etc.) will remain in the church as they are. Please remember this when you plan for your wedding flowers and decorations.
- ◆ Flowers and bows may be used on the pews if they are attached with rubber bands, piper cleaners, or florist wire. Hooks, including plastic hooks, are not permitted.
- ◆ One large flower arrangement is permitted and will be placed on the sanctuary steps in order to not block the view of the altar. The church will provide a pedestal table for the arrangement.
- ◆ After your ceremony all flowers must be removed unless other arrangements have been made. Flowers left behind will be thrown away.
- ◆ Floral plans must be presented to the Wedding Coordinator one month prior to the wedding for approval.
- ◆ For safety purposes, no aisle runners are allowed. RICE, CANDLES, CONFETTI, BIRD SEED, BIRDS, BUBBLES, FLOWER PETALS, ETC. are NOT permitted.
- ◆ Unity Candles are not part of the Sacrament of Matrimony and should be used at the wedding reception or rehearsal dinner and not in the church.

❖ **Dress**

- ◆ Please note that the bride, groom and all members of the Wedding Party, including the readers and gift bearers, must dress modestly and appropriately for a Church wedding ceremony.
- ◆ For the women, strapless dresses are discouraged and dress length should be knee length or longer.
- ◆ Talk with the priest or Wedding Coordinator before making plans if you are uncertain about appropriate dress or for whom the guideline applies.

❖ **Attendants**

- ◆ A reasonable number of attendants (Groomsmen and Bridesmaids) is permitted.
- ◆ Flower Girls and Ring Bearers are not encouraged; but if they are part of the wedding party, they must be at least seven years of age. Children under the age of seven must be escorted by an adult in the bridal procession.
- ◆ Members of the Bridal Party participating in the procession may not carry signs.
- ◆ Family members or friends may serve as a “reader” during the liturgy. Readers must be Catholic and preferably an instituted Lector.

❖ **Photography**

- ◆ Photographing and video taping are allowed when done with discretion and decorum. It is the couple’s responsibility to provide a copy of our guidelines to the photographer and videographer well before the wedding date. This will prevent confusion during and after the wedding ceremony.

- ◆ The photographer and videographer must talk with the Wedding Coordinator and priest in the church a half hour prior to the beginning of the wedding ceremony.
- ◆ Photographers and videographers must be dressed modestly and preferably in black.
- ◆ Pictures are allowed in the Church after the ceremony for 10 minutes. It must be remembered that the Church is not a studio; it is a sacred place. The wedding party must maintain a sense of decorum and quiet during photographs. If there is loud conversation you will be asked to move outside to the courtyard for photos.
- ❖ **Witnesses:** Provide names and addresses of the two witnesses (Best Man and Maid of Honor) for the marriage. They may be non-Catholics. These witnesses must meet with the priest immediately after the wedding ceremony in order to sign the marriage documents.
- ❖ **Confessions:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated a week prior to the Wedding. There are no Confessions during the wedding rehearsal. Confessions are scheduled every Saturday in the Church at 3:30 PM.
- ❖ **Parish Hall:** The hall is not available for receptions.
- ❖ **Food & Alcoholic Beverages:** are not permitted on church property at any time before, during or after the wedding ceremony. Please communicate this to the wedding party and guests in advance.
- ❖ **Worship Aids/Programs:** These are not necessary, but if they are included the aid should be designed to facilitate the participation of the wedding guests. Please consult with the Wedding Coordinator who can provide a template for designing your aid.
- ❖ **Marriages between a Catholic and baptized non-Catholic or a Non-Christian**
 - ◆ A wedding between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is usually celebrated without a Mass. With the Bishop's permission the couple can celebrate with a Mass. This should be discussed with the priest during the preparation period.
 - ◆ A wedding between a Catholic and non-baptized person will be celebrated without a Mass. If the Catholic desires to celebrate the ceremony within a Mass then a written request must be made to the Bishop by the priest and the couple. This situation should be discussed with the priest early in the preparation period.
- ❖ **Wedding Coordinator**
 - ◆ The Parish Wedding Coordinator will assist the couple in planning their ceremony, and will be present during the rehearsal and the wedding. Please contact Eileen Cox, e-mail ecox@svdphb.org, or call 714.842.3000 x102 to arrange for a ceremony planning meeting a minimum of four weeks prior to your wedding date.
- ❖ Additional questions about the Sacrament of Marriage that have not been answered in this document should be directed to the priest.

