

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

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WEDDING PREPARATION

A. Diocesan rule requires six months advance notice to the parish. This allows all paper work and preparations to be done adequately.

B. Documents needed:

1. Baptismal Certificates for both, issued within last six months. This gives us an update on all your sacraments. Ask the parish of baptism to put all information they have on the certificate regarding: First Communion, Confirmation and any other notations.
2. In the case of marriage validation: Copy of civil marriage certificate.
3. In the case of marriage validation with prior civil marriages: Copies of all civil Marriage certificates and divorce decrees.
4. In the case of prior church marriages: The decree of annulment must be presented.
5. Prior marriages involving the death of the spouse: The death certificate must be presented.
6. For especial cases other forms may be needed to be submitted to the diocese.
7. For first marriages, we need a marriage license from the county of Riverside. The priest will sign the certificate, NOT a judge (there is no need for a civil marriage before the wedding ceremony). **The license should be presented the latest a week before the wedding.**

C. Procedure for marriage preparation:

1. Initial appointment with priest to determine the feasibility of the marriage. If priest determines that the marriage may take place, then the priest will instruct the couple to come back with main documentation for a formal meeting.
2. Formal meeting with priest to set the wedding date, start a marriage file, complete prenuptial questionnaire by priest and to receive any documentation at hand.
3. Complete pre-cana by meeting with pre-cana couple assigned. The couple must submit pre-cana certificate to the priest as soon as completed.

4. Prepare the wedding liturgy with priest:
 - 4a. The reading of the Mass
 - 4b. Who will do the readings
 - 4c. The order of procession
 - 4d. Gift bearers for offertory (bread and wine)
 - 4e. Tasteful and simple decorations in church (nothing taped, stuck, glued or nailed. Runners, rose petals, bubbles or rice are not allowed.)
 - 4f. Music (not provided by church)
 - 4g. Altar servers
 - 4h. Instruct all guest to please be on time for weeding

D. Wedding donation to church:

\$50 due upon reservation. \$250.00 due at least two weeks before the celebration. Parish receptionist will issue receipts.

- E. It is the responsibility of both, the couple as well as the priest to follow up on the progress of the completion of preparation and documentation in a timely manner. If a priest is not available to celebrate the wedding it is his responsibility to notify the couple and to find a priest to replace him.
- F. Parish office is responsible for providing forms as determined by priest, assigning pre-cana couple, collecting fees, typing certificate and entering marriage in sacramental register.