

WEDDING PREPARATION GUIDELINES

ST. PATRICK PARISH

St. Patrick - St. Bernard - Our Lady of the Pines

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Congratulations on your approaching wedding!

We hope that it will be a holy and blessed day for you, your families and your friends. There are many important items that have to be taken care of before you exchange your vows in the Church. We ask you to share the following information with all involved in planning and executing your wedding ceremony. This will help to make your wedding day a solemn and sacramental occasion and the beginning of a lasting relationship of love.

There are certain things required by the Church for a Church Wedding:

- **FIRST:** At least one (either the bride or groom) must be Catholic.
- **SECOND:** The church can be reserved for weddings *only* by contacting the Pastor or the Deacon assigned to the parish.

DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES NEEDED ARE THOSE INDICATED:

- () 1. CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM for Catholics
- () 2. CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM for baptized non-Catholics
- () 3. First Communion and Confirmation certificates for Catholics
- () 4. Two completed PRE-NUPTIAL WITNESS TESTIMONY forms
- () 5. PRE-MARRIAGE TESTIMONY FOR BRIDE/GROOM filled out in the presence of a Priest or Deacon
- () 6. A Marriage License from the State of California
- () 7. Proof of Annulment by the Church for any previous marriage(s)

THE COUPLE WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

- A. The Pre-Cana Conference
- B. Engaged Couples Retreat
- C. Evenings for the Engaged (offered locally)

THE NUPTIAL MASS OR SIMPLE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

A NUPTIAL MASS takes approximately one hour for the complete wedding. The Simple Ceremony takes about one-half hour. A wedding between a Catholic and a Non-Catholic may take place at a Nuptial Mass.

DATE AND TIME OF WEDDINGS

Weddings are normally held on Saturdays, with starting times between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. However, weddings can take place on any day of the week. Wedding Masses may not be celebrated during Easter week, or on Sundays of Lent. Marriages may take place at other times of Lent, but it is contrary to the spirit of the season to have elaborate weddings or lavish receptions.

FLOWERS

Any florist of your choice is satisfactory. All decorations must be removed after the ceremony, except for floral bouquets you place on the on the high altar. They should remain.

The church is cleaned and the sanctuary prepared for the Weekend Masses at St. Patrick on Thursdays. The church must be left as you found it.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

A parish wedding coordinator will be provided to assist with the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

ORGANIST/MUSICIANS

Music selected for your ceremony must be appropriate for a church setting and approved by the Pastor or Pastoral Assistant. You may have your own organist/musician, but if the parish musician is chosen, they should be paid in advance (at the rehearsal is appropriate). The current fee is \$100 to \$125, depending on requests.

FEE FOR USE OF FACILITIES

The usual fee for use of St. Patrick's Church is \$300.00 for registered Parishioners, and \$500.00 for non-Parishioners. If this is a hardship, then let the Pastor or Deacon know beforehand. There is a separate fee and contract for the use of the Hall for a reception.

STIPEND FOR PRIEST OR DEACON

This is an offering made to the Priest or Deacon officiating at the ceremony. A gift of \$50 to \$100 is customary.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO TAPING

Any photographer of your choice is fine. Photos may be taken during the ceremony, however, **NO PHOTOGRAPHER NOR ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT IS ALLOWED IN THE SANCTUARY** (the raised area at the front of the church). **NO POSED PHOTOGRAPHS, NOR ANY ACTIONS BY THE PHOTOGRAPHER THAT INTERFERE WITH THE CEREMONY ARE ALLOWED.** A time limit of one half hour (30 minutes) should be observed for photography in the church after the ceremony. Photography must never conflict with the arrival and/or beginning of another scheduled wedding or church service.

REHEARSAL

The Priest or Deacon who is presiding at the ceremony, will ordinarily conduct the rehearsal, and couples should make arrangements directly with him. The Wedding Coordinator will assist at the rehearsal, which should take no more than 45 minutes when all cooperate fully.

CHURCH DECORUM

The church is the house of God and a place of prayer. Therefore, before and during the rehearsal, all members of the wedding party should conduct themselves respectfully and reverently. It is fine to greet one another, but the church is not the place to socialize with loud conversation.

Due consideration should be given to the wedding party's attire. While some clothing choices are fine for the reception, they may be less than desirable for a church ceremony.

This Parish does not allow rice, birdseed or rose petals to be used inside or outside of the church. A good place for this would be at the reception.

DRESSING ROOMS

The Parish Hall and Parish Center may be used for the purpose of changing clothes. The DePaoli Building is also available for this purpose. Arrangements can be made with the parish secretary or wedding coordinator. Please be sure you leave the rooms in the same condition in which they were found.

RESTROOMS

Restroom facilities for use by your guests are found in the Parish Hall.

SEASONAL DECORATIONS

There are seasons during the year when the church is specially decorated. These decorations **MAY NOT** be removed for the ceremony, should your wedding occur during these times. (Christmas - December 17 to January 7; Lent and Easter - dates change yearly)

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A license to marry must be obtained from the office of a County Clerk from any county in the State of California. A marriage license is valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. It must be presented to the priest or deacon before he can officiate at the service. (You may give the license to the priest as soon as you receive it.) The best man and maid/matron of honor should see the priest after the ceremony to sign the marriage license.

CHURCH SPECIFICATIONS

	Center Aisle Length		
St. Patrick	70 feet	Seats	150
St. Bernard	50 feet	Seats	75
Our Lady of the Pines	70 feet	Seats	270