



Wedding Pamphlet

St. Frances of Rome Church
2827 Topeka St. Riverbank, CA



'You made Adam, and you made his wife Eve to be his helper and support; and from these two the human race has come. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a helper like himself.' Now, not with lust, but with fidelity I take this kinswoman as my wife. Send down your mercy on me and on her, and grant that we may grow old together. Bless us with children. Tobit 8: 6-7

Marriage In The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church teaches that the covenant of marriage is a lifelong and exclusive partnership of a man and a woman. Marriage is a holy vocation, or calling, that by its very nature promotes the good of both spouses and is open to the procreation and education of children. Marriage comes into being by the free and unimpeded act of giving marital consent by both spouses.

The Sacrament of Marriage should normally take place along with the celebration of the Holy Mass. Through the Celebration of the Mass, the bride and groom offer their lives to one another as Christ did for his Church. Partaking in the Mass, the couple is united to each other through Christ, who is present in the Holy Eucharist.

Man and woman, now one flesh, are called to be a physical sign of the love of God; a love that is a giving of oneself completely, faithful in all ways and fruitful in its openness to children.

<https://stocktondiocese.org/marriage>

The process must be started no less than six months prior to the desired wedding date

Keep in mind there are no ceremonies during Lent.

The Documents needed to start the process are:

- 1. Initial Forms**
- 2. Sacrament Certificates**
- 3. Civil Marriage Certificate or Marriage License**

Every couple is unique and therefore your situation might require more documents. We will inform you when we have reviewed the above mentioned documents.

1. **Initial Forms:** The forms are included in this booklet or you can find them in our parish website. This form asks for basic information on the couple, what sacraments you have received, as well as your marital status. This form was created by the parish staff to gain some background information on the couple so that we can help make the process easier for you.
2. **Sacrament Certificates:** The couple will be asked to bring in a **NEW COPY OF THEIR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE**, please contact the parish where you were baptized to get a new copy.
 - A. You will need a copy of your First Holy Communion and Confirmation certificates, they don't have to be new copies. If you don't have the certificates and the church cannot provide them bring a picture as proof or a letter from your parents or church stating that you did receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
 - B. In some cases, you might not have all of your sacraments or one of you might not have any of the sacraments, it's important that you note this in the initial forms.
3. **Civil Marriage Certificate:** If you are already married through the Civil Court, you must provide a copy of your marriage certificate.

Or

3. **Marriage License 3 weeks before the ceremony:** If you are not married through the civil court, you must obtain a marriage license through the county and turn it in to the office staff no less than three weeks prior to the wedding date.
 - A. The day of the wedding you are required to have two witnesses. They are usually the Best Men and the Maid of Honor. They will appear in the church certificate and they will sign the marriage license, if the couple is not married already.
4. **Special circumstances:** Every couple is unique and therefore your situation might require more documents to be completed for the Diocese if necessary. For example, if previous civil marriages exist or if one of the people intending to marry is not catholic.
5. **Marriage Approval:** Once all documents are turned in the couple will then talk to Father Misael and have their marriage approved. This can be done after any Mass.
 - A. The couple needs to return the signed approval to the parish office.
6. **Deposit:** Once all of the paperwork is finalized, the couple can set their wedding date. A deposit of \$100 is required to reserve the date. This amount will be deducted from the total amount.
 - A. In case of cancelation the deposit is nonrefundable.
7. **Donation:** The balance due must be paid in full no less than one month prior to the wedding. The donation is \$400 if you are a member of our parish. If you are not member of St. Frances of Rome the donation is \$500.

What happens to this donation?

A. The full amount of your donation is for the Parish.

B. It does **not** include Music:

- You are responsible for making your own arrangements.
- **Music is required since it is a celebration.**
- We can provide a list with contact information for our choirs. (The choir does not need to be from our parish but you do need live music).
- If you get a choir from another church **they are responsible for bringing their own sound system.** Please make sure they do.

C. It does **not** include Decoration: It is not required to have decorations since there are always two flower arrangements on the altar. If you want to have decorations, keep in mind there are rules to follow.

Wedding date: _____ Time: _____ Language: _____

Signature of the priest approving this wedding:

_____ Date: _____

GROOM'S INFORMATION

Name: _____ Cell phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Religion: _____

_____ Do you practice your religion? _____

Email: _____

When is the best time to contact you? _____

Birth date: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Father's name: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's (maiden) name: _____ Religion: _____

SACRAMENT HISTORY

1. Are you baptized? ☐ Yes or ☐ No (If "No" please move on to Marital Status)
If Yes, You need to submit a new copy of your Baptismal certificate within six months of the wedding date.

If "yes": Religion _____ When? _____

Church: _____
(Church Name, City, State/Country)

☐ Certificate received in the parish office.

Office Notes: _____

2. Have you received your First Holy Communion? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "yes": Religion _____ When? _____

Church: _____
(Church Name, City, State/Country)

☐ Certificate received in the parish office.

Office Notes: _____

3. Have you been confirmed? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "yes": Religion _____ When? _____

Church: _____
(Church Name, City, State/Country)

☐ Certificate received in the parish office.

Office Notes: _____

If you are missing a Sacrament, are currently in an Adult Faith Formation Program to receive a Sacrament? Yes or No If yes, where? _____

GROOM'S INFORMATION

Marital Status

1. Are you currently civilly married? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If you chose "yes": With whom? _____

Religion? _____ Date of Marriage? _____ Where? _____

By whom (Priest, Minister, Civil Official)? _____

Did you have children with this person? _____

2. Are there any previous marriages? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "yes": How many times? _____ With whom? _____

Religion? _____ Date of Marriage? _____ Where? _____

By whom (Priest, Minister, Civil Official)? _____

Are you divorced now? ☐ Yes or ☐ No Did you have children with this person? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

3. Have you ever lived as a couple with anyone without being married? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If you chose "yes": How many times? _____ With whom? _____

Does this union still exist? ☐ Yes or ☐ No If no, date this relationship ended? _____

Did you have children with this person? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

4. Who do you intend to marry? _____

How many years, have you been dating? _____ Do you live together? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "Yes" Since when? _____

Do you have children with this person? ☐ Yes or ☐ No If Yes, how many: _____

Can you briefly explain why you want to be married in the Catholic Church?

Wedding date: _____ Time: _____ Language: _____

Signature of the priest approving this wedding:

_____ Date: _____

BRIDES' INFORMATION

Name: _____ Cell phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Religion: _____

_____ Do you practice your religion? _____

Email: _____

When is the best time to contact you? _____

Birth date: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Father's name: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's (maiden) name: _____ Religion: _____

SACRAMENT HISTORY

1. Are you baptized? ☐ Yes or ☐ No (If "No" please move on to Marital Status)
If Yes, You need to submit a new copy of your Baptismal certificate within six months of the wedding date.

If "yes": Religion _____ When? _____

Church: _____
(Church Name, City, State/Country)

☐ Certificate received in the parish office.

Office Notes: _____

2. Have you received your First Holy Communion? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "yes": Religion _____ When? _____

Church: _____
(Church Name, City, State/Country)

☐ Certificate received in the parish office.

Office Notes: _____

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If "yes": Religion _____ When? _____

Church: _____
(Church Name, City, State/Country)

☐ Certificate received in the parish office.

Office Notes: _____

If you are missing a Sacrament, are currently in an Adult Faith Formation Program to receive a Sacrament? Yes or No If yes, where? _____

BRIDES' INFORMATION

Marital Status

1. Are you currently civilly married? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If you chose "yes": With whom? _____

Religion? _____ Date of Marriage? _____ Where? _____

By whom (Priest, Minister, Civil Official)? _____

Did you have children with this person? _____

2. Are there any previous marriages? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "yes": How many times? _____ With whom? _____

Religion? _____ Date of Marriage? _____ Where? _____

By whom (Priest, Minister, Civil Official)? _____

Are you divorced now? ☐ Yes or ☐ No Did you have children with this person? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

3. Have you ever lived as a couple with anyone without being married? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If you chose "yes": How many times? _____ With whom? _____

Does this union still exist? ☐ Yes or ☐ No If no, date this relationship ended? _____

Did you have children with this person? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

4. Who do you intend to marry? _____

How many years, have you been dating? _____ Do you live together? ☐ Yes or ☐ No

If "Yes" Since when? _____

Do you have children with this person? ☐ Yes or ☐ No If Yes, how many: _____

Can you briefly explain why you want to be married in the Catholic Church?

8. **Ceremony Coordinator:** The Church will provide a Ceremony Coordinator to lead the rehearsal and assist during the ceremony.
9. **Rehearsal:** All participants in the wedding **MUST** attend the rehearsal, specially the lector (s).
 - A. The date for the rehearsal will be set by the office.
 - B. If there are issues with the date given contact the office to make arrangements, if possible, for a new date.
10. **Timely Arrival:** Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the celebration. If the participants are not on time, the Celebrant will do a communion service not a Mass.
11. **Dress code:** The temple is the Lord's holy place. Thus, we ask to dress appropriately. If the bride is wearing a strapless dress, she will need to wear something over it for the ceremony. All those participating in the ceremony, for example bride maids, must dress appropriately during the ceremony.
12. **Decoration:** You can decorate the church an hour before the ceremony. There might be other activities or ceremonies in the church before your ceremony, so we do not want your decorations to get ruined.
 - A. You can have flower arrangements in the altar, but please do not block the altar or the celebrant's path. Nothing around the altar or the couple.
 - B. If you are planning to place bows in the pews, make sure they are not in the way for people that will come forward to receive communion.
 - C. Please make sure the tape you use does not damage the pews.
 - D. If you want to have an arch, you can place it in the entrance of the church or in the middle. The arch is not allowed in front of the altar.
 - E. You are not allowed to put any type of plastic or carpet on the floor.
 - F. You can have a flower girl, but she cannot throw petals or any items on the floor.
 - G. Please do not throw any rice or confetti on the floor.

Altar flowers:

Each weekend people give a \$80 donation for the altar flowers. We have a section in the parish bulletin thanking those who donate. Let the office staff know if you will donate the altar flowers for your wedding. We can order the flowers for you if we are notified with sufficient time and it will allow us to make the proper arrangements for you to choose the color of the arrangements.

You can also bring your own arrangements for the altar. Please let us know if you will leave them for the church. If you want to leave the flowers we will add a thank you note in the parish bulletin and we can cancel our flower order for that weekend which really helps the church.

13. **Limousine:** The limousine can park in front of the church so that the couple can get out of the car. After the couple is out of the car, the limousine needs to park in the parking lot they can do so on the right side of the church.
14. **Religious articles:** The only article required by the church are the rings. Many people have different customs and cultures and might bring different items, that is allowed. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding what you plan to have during the ceremony.
15. **Readings:** The parish staff will provide a book for each couple to select the readings for the ceremony. The couple will need to inform the office staff on the selection and the name of the lector (s), (a catholic friend or family member who may read during the ceremony).
16. **Confessions:** Confessions in our parish are Saturdays from 3:30—4:45 pm. We invite everyone who is going to be part of the ceremony to go to confession. If you cannot make it to confessions, you need to go to another church. This is in order to receive communion during the ceremony.
17. **Marriage Preparation:** The couple is also required to attend Marriage Preparation prior to the wedding. Information on your options to complete this requirement is included in this booklet or can be obtained from the parish office.

May the Virgin Mary accompany each of you in this process to receive the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony.

For Spanish speaking couples, we have more options available
We encourage you to contact the parish office for more information or
if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Mandatory Marriage Preparation.



**Online Pre-Cana
Marriage Prep Classes**
Tel: (810) 957-1550

**Only \$195 USD | 8 Hours to Complete
Certificate of Completion**

You can access this online marriage preparation program at your convenience anytime, anywhere.

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- Create one account that both of you share access to.
- Work through the course side-by-side or from different locations.
- Register whenever and take as much time as you need to finish.
- Come and go as you please. The course is always ready when you are.
- You will receive an official Certificate of Completion, which you can print or email, after successfully completing all required elements of the program.
- Comprehensive and Trusted

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**STOCKTON WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE
ENCOUNTER 2024**

<https://www.stocktonwwme.org/>

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION FOR COUPLES
LIVING TOGETHER MARRIED CIVILLY:**

Apply by phone: 209-691-0603

WWME® Info: 209-691-0603

Mon-Fri: 9:00AM-9:00PM

Sat: 9:00AM-5:00PM | Sun: 1:00PM-5:00PM

AUG 17-18, 2024 | TURLOCK

Location: Our Lady of the Assumption

Contact: 916-489-3464

Language: English

NOV 8-10, 2024 | SACRAMENTO

Location: Hilton Garden Inn

Contact: 916-489-3464

Language: English



COUPLES LIVING TOGETHER

3/15/24 Modesto, CA

9/13/2024 Modesto, CA

Registration Fee 150.00 USD* (per couple)

Contact Phone 209-410-9395

Email 6021@retrouvaille.org

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE PREP

WHO: ENGAGED OR CIVILLY MARRIED

COST: \$194 per couple & \$245 Fast Program

\$25 military discount. PRIOR to registration.

HOW LONG:

- Requires a **minimum of 20 hours of active work.**
- Completed in **three to six weeks.**
- It must be completed within **three months maximum.**
- Instructors review each worksheet within a maximum of 4 business days
- Regular course (5 business days if your wedding is in more than 5 months), within 24 business hours for the Urgent Care Program.

A Division of Agapè Catholic Ministries

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact us: 1-800-208-1364 | +1 719-531-0738 |
1-800-208-1364 | info@catholicmarriageprep.com



Catholic Engaged Encounter 2024

*Registration fees are per couple
\$200.00 (USD)*

Catholic Engaged Encounter retreat in person. Registration fees are per couple and include materials and five meals. The retreat goes from 8 AM to 9 PM on Saturday and 8 AM to 5 PM on Sunday. This retreat is commuter in style, overnight accommodations are not included.

March 23-24, 2024 | Hughson

May 25-26, 2024 | Hughson

July 13-14, 2024 | Stockton

September 14-15, 2024 | Hughson

November 9-10, 2024 | Hughson

CEE Virtual Retreats

Pacific Standard Time

Los Angeles CEE

Mar 15, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Aug 23, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Nov 15, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Orange County, CA

Oct 19, 2024 @ 8:00 AM

<https://engagedencounter.com/virtual-retreats/>