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** (*if already civilly married*)

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 where 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

4. **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, <u>if the couple</u> is not married already.

5. **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.

6. **Marriage Approval:** Once all documents are turned in the couple will then talk to Father Kondayya and have their marriage approved. .

   A. The couple needs to call the parish office to schedule a appointment to talk to Father.

7. **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.

8. **Donation:** The balance due must be paid in full no less than one month prior to the wedding. The donation is $550 if you are a member of our parish. If you are not member of St. Frances of Rome the donation is $650.

   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 **<u>they are responsible for bringing their own sound system</u>**. 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.

9. **Ceremony Coordinator:** The Church will provide a Ceremony Coordinator to lead the rehearsal and assist during the ceremony.

10. **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.

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 o □ No

If "Yes" Since when?_____

Do you have children with this person? □ Yes o □ No If Yes, how may: _____

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: _____

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? _____

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 o □ No

If "Yes" Since when?_____

Do you have children with this person? □ Yes o □ No If Yes, how may: _____

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

11. **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.

12. **Dress code:** The temple is the Lords 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.

13. **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 arc 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.

14. **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.

15. **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.

16. **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.

17. **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).

18. **Confessions:** Confessions in our parish are Monday to Thursday from 8:45-9:30am and 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.

19. **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 Blessed Virgin Mary accompany 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.

Sacramento EE

https://www.sacee.org

2026 WEEKENDS
Nov 20-22, 2026

2027 WEEKENDS
Jan 15-17, 2027
March 12-14, 2027
May 28-30, 2027
Sept 3-5, 2027
Nov 19-21, 2027

Our weekends are filled first come, first served basis.
The cost of a weekend is $490 per couple.
Scholarships are available.
No couple will ever be turned away for financial reasons.
If you have questions about registration they can be reached at registration@sacee.org
or by calling 916-534-8602.

Catholic Engaged Encounter 2026

https://stocktonee.com/retreats/

Registration fees are per couple $200.00 (USD)

Fees are per couple and include five catered meals. Retreats last ALL day on Saturday (8 a.m. to as late as 10 p.m.) and Sunday (8 a.m. to as late as 5 p.m.) please plan accordingly. Both fiancés are required to attend the retreat together.

September 12-13, 2026 | St. Anthony's, Hughson
November 7-8, 2026 | St. Anthony's, Hughson

CEE Virtual Retreats

Must be approved by priest before signing up for them.

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

Aug 21, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Nov 13, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
Dec 4, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

NOTE: The times above are for the start of the first session of the retreat and relative to your browsers time zone.

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER 2026

AUG 21-23, 2026 [Sonora, CA]
Location: Sonora TBD
Contact: Terry & Janet Doane
Contact Phone: 916-489-3464

Aug 21-23, 2026 [MODESTO, CA] [SSR]
Location: Holiday Inn Express, Modesto - MODESTO, CA
Contact: Terry & Janet Doane
Contact Phone: 916-489-3464

ASK THE PARISH STAFF

FOR MORE OPTIONS

IF NON OF THE ABOVE

WORK FOR YOU.

Natural Family Planning

"To experience the gift of married love while respecting the laws of conception is to acknowledge that one is not the master of the sources of life, but rather the minister of the design established by the Creator." (Humane Vitae - 13)

NFP Certified Instructor

Certified Instructors are available for guidance in the use of the various Natural Family Planning methods. Instructors can be contacted directly regarding class times, locations and fees.

Couple to Couple Sympto-Thermal Method

Tom & Mary-Lynn Ott
Modesto | English
209-572-5136
jmjottfamily@gmail.com

Sergio & Isabel Nuno
Stockton | Spanish
209-469-0189
isabelnuno9@att.net

Billings Ovulation

Sharon Pearce
Long Distance | English
858-560-5336
svoices@pacbell.net

Creighton Model FertilityCare System

Mayra Garcia-Ceja, FCP
Long Distance |
English & Spanish
559-907-5977 Prefer text
heavensentfc@gmail.com

Sheila St. John, CFCP
Long Distance |
English
831-443-3743
sheila@canfp.org

Peggy Stofila, PT, CFCP
Long Distance | English
310-429-1844
peggystofila@gmail.com

Julie Linder, MSN, RN, CNL, CFCP
Modesto | English
507-720-1334
jlinder.fc@gmail.com

Stefania Bigi Alzati, MD, CFCP (Lodi)
English/Spanish/Italian
312-566-6886
bigi.fertilitycare@gmail.com

NFP online resources and home study courses in English & Spanish.

COUPLE TO COUPLE LEAGUE
513.471.2000
www.ccli.org

symptopro FERTILITY EDUCATION
www.symptopro.org

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION CANFP OF NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
Info on Methods & Resources:
www.canfp.org
Videos: www.CelebrateHV.com