

# Steps and Requirements for the Religious Wedding

To have a better wedding celebration we offer you this pamphlet, which has been made for the purpose of helping you to organize and turn in the required documents on time.

1. First step is to have an interview with the priest, at least six months prior to the wedding celebration. You will be able to set a tentative date for the wedding celebration which will be confirmed upon meeting with all requirements.
2. It is required for both partners to fill out the marriage application form, sign it and turn it in with the following documents:
  - Solicitude of Matrimony (application form)
  - Baptism certificate: A recent official copy of your baptismal certificate, It must be dated within the last 6 months prior to the wedding and have the full mailing address of the parish where baptism took place.
  - First Communion Certificate (a copy)
  - If you are Confirmed, a copy of your Confirmation Certificate

**NOTE: If either partner is missing a sacrament it is required for that person to prepare for it opportunely.**

### 3. Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire:

In the second interview with the priest the couple getting married must give testimony in writing and should administer an oath, testifying that the marriage will be done freely and with no impediments.

Each one, likewise, must bring in two witnesses that will give testimony that they know you, and that will testify that the couple is marrying freely.

### 4. Dispensation:

If one of the parties is not Catholic, a dispensation- permit from the Bishop's Chancery Office is required for the Catholic party.

### 5. Engaged Encounter: [www.CatholicMarriagePrep.com](http://www.CatholicMarriagePrep.com)

You will be asked to participate in a weekend retreat, conducted by the Engaged Encounter Ministry of the Diocese of Monterey which runs Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Reservations should be made well in advance as the dates fill quickly. The weekend fee is not included in the church fee. You may register for the weekend online and check for available weekends at [www.mcee.org](http://www.mcee.org). Jennifer & Barry Banderkelen:(805) 474-801

### 6. Marriage License:

Please obtain this (Sixty days) prior to the wedding. Licenses are available in Santa Cruz County, licenses courthouse. Please bring the license, including mailing envelope, to the parish office no later than one week prior to your wedding.

If you have already received a civil marriage, then instead of a marriage license you will need to provide the priest with a copy of your marriage certificate.

**7. Financial Donation:**

- The fee for celebrating a wedding is \$600.00
- A \$150.00 non-refundable advance is required the day of the Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire to pencil in down the wedding date.
- The date of the wedding will be confirmed only after all paperwork required are done.
- If you change the date, the deposit may be applied to a new date if you notify three months prior the schedule date.
- Please Note: The \$450 balance must be paid 30 days before the wedding.

**8. Flower Arrangements:**

It is the responsibility of the wedding party to bring at least 2 arrangements of flowers and leave them for the church. We recommend you bring them on Friday during office hours.

**9. Music:**

Musician fee, cantor fee is not included in the reservation fee. These fees must be paid directly to them before the wedding.

**10. Rehearsal:**

All the members participating during the wedding ceremony must come to the rehearsal. A date will be given from the parish office.

**11. Ceremony:**

The couple getting married and the members participating in the ceremony, must be in church 30 minutes before the celebration. Since we have other events immediately following the wedding, service will begin on time. We will not be able to wait for late arrivals.

**12. Behavior in Church:**

For safety reasons, throwing rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals are not allowed at the church entrance or in the aisle-way. Also no flowers to be taped or nailed to the pews. Aisle runners are not recommended; if they are used, they must be of good material (plastic runners are not permitted)

For the respect of the church and of the sacredness and formality of the wedding, please be advised that all present in church are dressed appropriately.

**Please note:**

No staples, wire or tape may be used to attach anything to the pews. Plastic clips and large rubber bands are easy to obtain, easy to use and don't damage the pews.