



celebrating matrimony guidelines

mission basilica san buenaventura

established 1782

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(contact at least **two months** prior to wedding)

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INTRODUCTION

Blessings to our parishioners and guests of Mission Basilica San Buenaventura as you prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony! The Church has an abiding responsibility and interest in each individual member of the Catholic Community and this concern is expressed by her priests, deacons, and pastoral ministers who assist the couple in preparation for matrimony. We look forward to assisting to prepare your shared life together.

The following guidelines serve to both promote the welfare and happiness of the couple entering matrimony and to safeguard the sanctity of the Sacrament. We also extend a warm welcome to our non-Catholic brothers and sisters entering into marriage with a member of the Catholic community. Please remember that the Mission Basilica San Buenaventura first and foremost is a sacred and historic place. The practice of one's faith and growth and maturity in the spiritual life must be the main reason why you desire to have a wedding at the Mission.

The Importance and Dignity of the Sacrament of Matrimony:

The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish a lifelong partnership between themselves, derives its force and strength from creation, but for the Christian faithful it is also raised up to a higher dignity, since it is numbered among the Sacraments of the new covenant.

A Marriage is established by the conjugal covenant, that is, the irrevocable consent of both spouses, by which they freely give themselves to each other and accept each other. Moreover, this singular union of a man and a woman requires, and the good of the children demands, the complete fidelity of the spouses and the indissoluble unity of the bond of the sacramental covenant.

By his presence, Christ brought blessing and joy to the wedding at Cana, where he changed water into wine and so foreshadowed the hour of the new and eternal covenant: "For just as of old God made himself present to his people with a covenant of love and fidelity, so now the Savior of the human race" offers himself to the Church as Spouse, fulfilling his covenant with her in his Pascal Mystery.

By the Sacrament of Matrimony Christian spouses signify and participate in the mystery of unity and fruitful love between Christ and the Church; therefore, both in embracing conjugal life and in accepting and educating their children, they help one another to become holy and have their own place and particular gift among the People of God.

Preliminary Marriage Preparations:

1. Marriage preparation begins with an interview with a parish priest or deacon. The **interview is scheduled at least six months in advance** of the wedding date in order for preparation readiness of the couple and to fulfill the necessary requirements of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The date for marriage will be arranged with the interview contact priest or deacon. At the initial interview please be prepared to submit the following information:
 - a. Signed Celebrating Matrimony Guidelines (see below) *
 - b. Bio Form: Bride & Groom (see below) *
 - c. Letter from pastor (only for non-parishioners of the Mission parish) *
 - d. Sacramental Certificates for Bride and Groom: Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation (issued within the past 6 months, generally new Baptism certificate will also record Communion and Confirmation) *
 - e. Deposit fee (\$400) to reserve the Mission Basilica Church

The above is **required to set the date and time of the wedding** at Mission Basilica San Buenaventura:

2. In addition to preparation appointments with the officiating priest or deacon, the couple will attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend. This retreat has the potential to be a life-transforming experience for a couple preparing for a lifetime together and supports spiritual growth in the months leading up to the wedding. The Mission Basilica parish takes seriously its responsibility to give each couple the tools for a healthy marriage. Once you have met with a priest or deacon, please **register for the Engaged Encounter Weekend as soon as possible** since reservations for these weekends are quickly filled.

Go to <http://www.cceofla.org>

3. **Fees for a wedding** at the historic Mission Basilica include:
 - ❖ Stipend for the preservation of the Mission Basilica and garden/gathering area.
 - ❖ Two Mission Basilica Music Ministers (cantor/soloist and organist; additional musicians may be arranged by the Director of Liturgy for an **additional fee** AND at least **two months** in advance)
 - ❖ Wedding Coordinator
 - ❖ Flowers in the Sanctuary (White)
 - ❖ Priest and Altar Server stipend
 - ❖ Fee Schedule:
 - Preparation by the Mission clergy for Marriage sacramental ceremony at another parish: **\$400.00**
 - Con-validation for Mission **parishioner*** (Outside of Mass/immediate family/no music): **\$400.00**
 - Con-validation for Mission **parishioner*** with Mass: **\$900.00**
 - Marriage for registered **parishioner***: **\$1,500.00.**
*Registered for at least one year with regular Sunday Mass attendance and financial support.
 - Non-Parishioner registered and active in Deanery III or IV parish: **\$2,000.00***
 - Non-Parishioner (not residing in Deanery 3 or 4): **\$3,000.00***

The \$400 deposit is required to secure the wedding date and is deducted from the total fee schedule. This deposit is non-refundable. The fee balance is due 30 days prior to the wedding date.

COORDINATE:

- **Music: Johanthan Culbreath** (contact at least *60 days in advance* of wedding date, *required*. - See Music Appendix “C” below).
- **Parish Wedding Coordinator: Maria Gomes** (contact at least *30 days in advance* of wedding date to set rehearsal time/date), *required*.
- **Flowers: Passion Flowers** (805- 641-1076) provides four sprays in white behind the altar for weddings. Call to coordinate color options at additional personal expense and to purchase additional flowers such as boutonnieres, corsages, reception flowers, etc.
- **Photography:** You may wish to engage the services of a professional photographer/video specialist for the wedding. All photographers are *required* to communicate with the priest/deacon and Marriage Coordinator on the day of the wedding prior to the liturgical ceremony.
***At no time should the photographer detract from the sacredness and dignity of the ceremony.*
The Mission gardens are a beautiful location for photos.
- Please be punctual and considerate of the next scheduled ceremony when using the garden or utilizing a limousine service. **Weddings must start on time** for the consideration of everyone involved including the personal schedule of the priest/deacon. A **fee of \$200** is assessed for every 15 minutes the ceremony is delayed compensating ministry personnel according to California Labor Law.

CHECKLIST FOR BRIDE AND GROOM:

Check off as each item is completed/turned in to the priest or deacon or parish office.

	<u>BRIDE</u>	<u>GROOM</u>
LETTER FROM PASTOR (only for non-Mission parishioner) *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE (issued past 6 months) *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CERTIFICATE*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AFFIDAVIT WITNESS FORMS (2 each, Bride and Groom) **	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENGAGED ENCOUNTER RETREAT CERTIFICATE**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOCUS INVENTORY**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASS**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACTED PARISH MUSIC DIRECTOR (Appendix "C", pages 12-13) (two months prior to wedding)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CONTACTED PARISH WEDDING COORDINATOR (Appendix "A", page 11) (one month prior to wedding)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CONTACTED PASSION FLOWERS (inform wedding colors) **	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MARRIAGE LICENSE (From the County) (Due at the Parish Office two weeks prior to wedding date)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR CEREMONY** (Appendix "B" pages 14-23)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL FOR CEREMONY**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Required at first meeting with clergy.

**Required within first three months of preparation.

***NOTE:** It is advised that you make extra copies of any documents you wish to keep in your personal files before turning them in to the Priest, Deacon, or Office Personnel.*

IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR THE WEDDING DAY

- **Be certain to eat a good meal and drink plenty of water** the day of the wedding and prior to the wedding ceremony. This is often overlooked due to the excitement of the day and meeting family and friends. Experience is that no food in the body leads to ill health or even fainting during the wedding ceremony. The **Maid of Honor** and the **Best Man** should make certain that this aspect of the day is not overlooked for the Bride and Groom.
- **The Best Man and Maid of Honor** are to meet with the priest in the sacristy immediately after the wedding, before any pictures or reception, to sign the marriage documents as witnesses of the ceremony.
- **Rice throwing or the scattering of birdseed, flower petals, bubbles, or any other foreign matter** is not permitted at the Mission both inside and outside the Church.
- **Dress Attire:** All people in the wedding party should be respectfully dressed. The Mission does not have a dressing room for the bride and her attendants. The members of the wedding party should come fully attired to the Church.
- **Decorum:** Please show respect and reverence while in the Mission Basilica Church and during the ceremony. The Mission is a historical and sacred place. The sacredness of the sanctuary and the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is not a common understanding for some non-Catholics. It helps if you can please explain this level of reverence to the wedding party and your family. Eating or drinking is unacceptable in the Mission Basilica. Additionally, no alcohol should be consumed prior to the wedding ceremony. A suspicion of alcohol consumption by the wedding party prior to the wedding ceremony may postpone the ceremony.
- **Brief History:** Saint Junipero Serra raised the Cross at "la playa de la canal de Santa Barbara" (the beach of the Santa Barbara Channel) on Easter morning, March 31, 1782. He celebrated a High Mass, preached on the Resurrection, and dedicated a Mission to San Buenaventura (St. Bonaventure), this being the ninth and last founded during his lifetime and one of six he personally dedicated. In all, 21 missions were founded in Alta California. The construction of the present Mission Church was completed in 1809. Founded under the Spanish Crown, the Mission was then under Mexico and now the United States of America. This Mission Church has remained the same since 1809 with a few minor modifications over the past 200+ years. This history of the Mission continues as we celebrate this historic day in the life of the bride and groom and their families. Bienvenido la misión San Buenaventura. Welcome to Mission Basilica San Buenaventura!

MISSION BASILICA OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

Marriage Preliminary Questionnaire

(Bring to first meeting with priest/deacon)

Groom

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Religion: _____ Parish: _____

(If parish is Mission San Buenaventura, are you registered with the parish? _____)

Describe your practice of your Religion: _____

Occupation: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Have you ever been married in the Catholic Church, another church, or civilly? _____

How long have you known your intended spouse? _____

How long have you been engaged? _____

How did you meet your intended spouse?

Please provide this information to the Mission Basilica contact minister during your first meeting.

MISSION BASILICA OF SAN BUENAVENTURA

Marriage Preliminary Questionnaire

(Bring to first meeting with priest/deacon)

Bride

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Religion: _____ Parish: _____

(If parish is Mission San Buenaventura, are you registered with the parish? _____)

Describe your practice of your Religion: _____

Occupation: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Have you ever been married in the Catholic Church, another church, or civilly? _____

How long have you known your intended spouse? _____

How long have you been engaged? _____

How did you meet your intended spouse?

Please provide this information to the Mission Basilica contact minister during your first meeting.



mission basilica of san buenaventura

Acknowledgement Form for Marriage Preparation (Bring to first meeting with priest/deacon)

I have read and understand the Marriage Guidelines for Mission San Buenaventura.

Rehearsal time and date must be followed as agreed upon. 60 minutes is allotted for rehearsal and 90 minutes for the pre-wedding and wedding ceremony. The bridal couple will be billed additional fees in increments of 30 minutes for delays in compliance with California Labor Law and just compensation for services rendered by the musicians and wedding coordinator.

Bride's Name (print)

Bride's Signature

Date

Groom's Name (print)

Groom's Signature

Date

Date of Marriage: _____

Day of the Week: _____

Time:

☐ 10 AM

☐ 12:00 PM (noon)

☐ 2:00 PM

☐ Other _____

Please sign and return this acknowledgement form to the Mission contact minister during your first meeting.

Appendix “A” The Order of Celebrating of Matrimony at Mass

At the appointed time, the Priest goes with the servers to the door of the church, receives the bridal party, and warmly greets them, showing that the Church shares in their joy. The procession to the altar then takes place in the customary manner while the Entrance Chant is sung.

Introductory Rite and Entrance Procession:

The priest/deacon greets and welcomes the Bride and Groom at the doors of the Church)

Entrance Song for Procession

Altar Servers with Cross and Candles
Master of Ceremonies
Priest/Deacon
Flower and Ring Bearer (optional)
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen Couples
Groom with Parents
Bride with Parents
Bride and Groom take their place at the kneelers or chairs
Sign of the Cross and Greeting
Introduction
Gloria
Collect/Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word (see Appendix “C”):

First Reading from the Old Testament (read by family or friend see Appendix “C”)
Responsorial Psalm (sung by Cantor)
Second Reading from the New Testament (read by family or friend see Appendix “C”)
Alleluia (sung by Cantor)
Gospel (proclaimed by deacon or priest see Appendix “C”)
Homily (priest)

The Celebration of Matrimony:

Address to the Bride and Groom
The Questions before the Consent
The Consent and Reception of the Consent
Blessing and Giving of Rings
Blessing and Giving of Arras/Coins (optional)
Cantic of Praise
The Universal Prayer (read by family or friend see Appendix “C”)

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Offertory**
Presentation of the Gifts (Bread and Wine brought by family or friends) *
Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or Veil (optional)
Preface*
Sanctus/Holy, Holy, Holy*
Eucharistic Prayer*
Lord’s Prayer

Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Reception of Holy Communion

Conclusion of the Celebration:

Prayer after Communion*
Blessing of Bride and Groom
Final Blessing
Dismissal
Priest: “Let us Congratulate N. and N”
Recessional
Altar Servers
Master of Ceremonies
Priest/Deacon
Bride and Groom
Parents of the Bride and Groom
Best Man and Bride’s Maid
Flower and Ring Bearer (optional)
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen Couples
Witnesses (Best Man and Bride’s Maid) meet with Priest to sign the Marriage License
**Omitted for Order of Celebrating Matrimony Outside of Mass*

APPENDIX “B” Liturgy Guide and Scripture Selections for the Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Bride: _____ Groom: _____ Language: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Rehearsal: _____

Witnesses--Maid/Matron of honor: _____ Best Man:

Presiding Priest: _____

If pews are to be reserved, how many? _____

Order of Procession: Liturgical Ministers (Altar Servers, MC, Celebrant) followed by:

As a couple, please review and pray about your selection of the Sacred Scripture readings for your wedding Mass. Choose the **First Reading** from the Old Testament and the **Second Reading** from the New Testament Letters and finally the **Gospel**. Additionally, select the **Universal Prayers of the Faithful** from the options below. Please communicate your selections and the name of the person reading the First and Second Scripture reading and the Universal Prayers to the Priest, the Director of Liturgy and Music and the Mission Wedding Coordinator.

At least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must always be chosen. These readings are designated by an asterisk*.

***Old Testament Readings:** (select one: _____, read by _____)

***New Testament Reading:** (select one: _____, read by _____)

***Gospel Readings:** (select one: _____, read by deacon or priest)

***Universal Prayers:** (select one: _____, read by _____)

*See the selections in the separate documents posted in this section on the website.

Blessing Lazo and/or Arras (optional)? _____

Gifts of bread and wine to be brought forward by: _____

Flowers to the Virgin? (optional)? _____

Presenting the couple, how? Mr. and Mrs. _____ or _____

Bring the Presider and Witnesses to the Sacristy to sign the Marriage License immediately following Mass.

MUSIC APPENDIX “C”

Songs chosen celebrating matrimony are to enhance the Sacred Christian dimension of Marriage and give glory and praise to God. Popular or secular love songs therefore are not appropriate during the wedding ceremony, although they may be used as prelude music only with permission of the Mission and the officiating priest. Music is to emphasize the spiritual relationship between God and His people. **Music for your wedding must be coordinated by our parish Director of Music and Liturgy, Johanthan Culbreath** even if you use an outside music group. See the front page for contact information.

The Mass celebrating marriage follows the same norms as Sunday Mass, meaning that music is used in the same way, and not for “show.” In all liturgical celebrations, the role and participation of the assembly is essential. For this reason, the Responsorial Psalm (between the first and second readings), the Gospel Acclamation (between the second reading and the Gospel), and the parts of the Mass (when Eucharist is celebrated) are intended to be sung by all participants and led by the musicians. This is why there is a Cantor at every wedding, regardless of any other singer that may be in attendance; it is the cantor’s role to lead the assembly.

Music in the marriage rite outside of Mass follows the same general principles of liturgy, in the use of processional antiphons, psalms, hymns, the responsorial psalm, and gospel acclamation.

Below is a brief description of how music is used in the liturgy for weddings.

Preludes:

Prelude music will generally start 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony while guests are being seated. The musician will select instrumental prelude selections appropriate for the wedding ceremony. Specially requested prelude music must be arranged in advance.

Entrance hymn/chant:

This music accompanies the procession of the priest, ministers, bridesmaids and groomsmen, and the couple either together or with or with their parents. Hymns or psalms of praise and joy are most appropriate.

Gloria:

This hymn of praise is sung before the Opening Prayer (Collect).

Responsorial Psalm:

The psalm between the Old and New Testament readings is sung by the cantor. The music director will select an appropriate psalm setting that will fit with the Sacred Scriptures selected by the couple.

Gospel Acclamation and Mass Parts (when Eucharist is celebrated):

These are sung acclamations.

If you are celebrating Matrimony within a Mass, the following parts also apply:

Preparation of the gifts:

This musical selection can reflect one of the readings you have selected or be a song of praise. Options include a vocal, instrumental, or hymn selection.

Communion:

This is the high point of your Catholic wedding. Not only is the wedding couple united by the vows exchanged, but also with Christ in his Body and Blood. Choose a song that speaks of the Eucharist and why it is important in your life as an individual and as a couple.

Recessional:

The final musical selection is played or sung as the newly married couple and ministers leave the altar at the end of Mass.

Sample list of Instrumental Recessionals

Ode to Joy (Beethoven)

Trumpet voluntary (Clarke)

Water Music (Handel; various movements including Air, The Rejoicing, Hornpipe (also titled Allegro Maestoso,))

Sample list Hymns (English and bilingual)

O Love of God (bilingual)

Behold the Lamb

Gift of Finest Wheat

How Great Thou Art

Love One Another

The Servant Song

Ubi Caritas

We Have Been Told

Where There is Love

Wherever You Go

Litany of Peace

Blest Are They

Panis Angelicus

Bread of Life

Center of My Life

Let us Go to the Altar

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Prayer of St. Francis

The Supper of the Lord

All Creatures of Our God and King

When Love Is found (O WALY WALY)

With All I Am

You Have Called Us

Love Goes On

God is Love

Be Thou My Vision

Sample list of songs in Spanish

El Amor Nunca Pasará

Te Seguiré

Pan de Vida (also bilingual)

Pescador de Hombres

Amor de Dios