



## **ST. RITA IN THE DESERT CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### **Sacrament of Matrimony**

***Your marriage means a growing Catholic parish family!***  
***Fr. Alonzo Garcia is eager to meet with you both...***  
***he gets all excited when he gets to meet engaged couples***  
***preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony!***

Please contact the parish secretary to schedule your first Pre-Cana meeting with our pastor.  
Phone: (520) 762-9688 or email: [secretary@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:secretary@stritainthedesert.org)

Please bring the following documents to your first Pre-Cana meeting:

- Marriage Registration Form
- Recent original copy of Baptismal certificate (dated within the last 6 months)
- Original copies of First Holy Communion certificate and Confirmation Certificate
- If sacraments were received from St. Rita, make sure they're on file

If married outside the Catholic Church and want to Con-validate (Bless) your marriage:

- Original copy of Civil Marriage License

If married outside the Catholic Church and divorced:

- Original copy of Civil Marriage License
- Original copy of Divorce Decree

If married within the Catholic Church and divorced,

- Original copy of either "Lack of Form" or "Annulment Decree"
- Original copy of Civil Marriage License
- Original copy of Divorce Decree

If you are widowed:

- Original copy of Death Certificate

If bride or groom attends a parish other than St. Rita:

- "Letter of Permission" from your parish priest granting permission to get married at St. Rita in the Desert Roman Catholic Church



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One or both persons of the engaged couple must be a practicing Catholic.

When two practicing Catholics marry, they should celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony with a Mass. When a Catholic and a person of another Christian faith marry, they should celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony with a Service. Each wedding ceremony is a valid Sacrament of Matrimony.

Wedding ceremonies may take place in either the St. John XXIII or the St. Rita Shrine. The maximum capacity of the shrine is limited to 70 people. Wedding ceremony dates are approved and scheduled by our pastor only.

For Roman Catholics to abide by the requirements set forth by the Catholic Church, they must be married by a Roman Catholic priest and the ceremony must take place in a parish church, chapel or other religious oratory for the marriage to be considered a valid sacrament. Being married by the State or by court does **NOT** constitute a valid sacramental marriage. ***The Roman Catholic Church offers Sacraments, the State gives contracts.*** If your marriage is not considered sacramental, the Church can rectify this situation by having your current marriage Con-validated (Blessed) in the Catholic Church.

Often through no fault of their own, many Catholics find themselves in the painful situation of being civilly divorced without an Annulment Decree. It is important to remember that simply being divorced does not make receiving of the sacraments impossible. It is, however, necessary to obtain a Declaration of Nullity:

- For a person who was married civilly, is divorced, and wishes to remarry, the Church can perform a “Lack of Form” because that person married outside the norms of the Catholic Church.
- For a person who was married in the Roman Catholic Rite (Church), is divorced, and wishes to remarry, the Church will need to annul your previous marriage because this is a “Formal Case” and it is necessary to obtain an “Annulment Decree.”
- A Declaration of Nullity indicates that a person is free to seek another marriage in the Catholic Church.
- A Declaration of Nullity does not affect, in any way, the legitimacy of children who may have been born in that marriage.

If you think you may need an annulment, please contact the parish office immediately to schedule an appointment with our pastor.

***“Grace, mercy and peace, which come from God the Father and from Jesus Christ - the Son of the Father - will continue to be with us in truth and love.” (2 John 1:3)***