

ARRANGING YOUR MARRIAGE

Our Marriage Preparation Program takes a minimum of six months to complete; therefore we strongly recommend you begin the program at least ten to twelve months before your proposed wedding date.

In asking to be married at St. Joan of Arc, you are stating that you want the members of this Christian Community to witness and support you through your preparation program and married life, in thought and prayer. To this extent, it is advisable that you get to know people from this community of which you have chosen to be a part. If this is done, your wedding will truly be a celebration of our whole community at St. Joan of Arc, along with your family and friends. With Christ as the center, we as a parish can participate in welcoming you and helping you start your sacramental life.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

Step 1: Fill out the Marriage Questionnaire form and return it to the parish office.

Step 2: Initial interview with the priest or deacon. **No wedding dates or times will be set until after this meeting.**

Step 3: FOCCUS Inventory and evaluation

Step 4: Attend ONE of the Marriage Preparation Programs

- P.R.E.P. Resident Weekend
- P.R.E.P. Commuter Weekend
- Evenings for the Engaged Sessions
- Convalidation Preparation
- Re-Marriage Preparation

Step 5: Complete required documents

Step 6: Plan the wedding liturgy

- Meet with the Wedding Coordinator
- Meet with the Director of Music

PRACTICAL POINTS ABOUT YOUR CEREMONY

Times: Monday - Fridays after 10am

Saturday at 11:00am or 1:00pm

The Ceremony: The priest or deacon, wedding coordinator and music director will assist you with all the liturgical details. We recommend a Eucharistic Liturgy for couples who have been practicing their faith regularly. Otherwise, especially for interfaith marriages, we recommend a Liturgy of the Word with the exchange of vows.

Music: It is the couple's responsibility to schedule a meeting with the parish music ministry no later than 2 months prior to the wedding date. This meeting is to assist the couple in selecting appropriate liturgical music for the wedding. Because the wedding liturgy is modeled after Sunday masses, only liturgical music will be permitted during the wedding liturgy. Music for the wedding is led by a cantor and pianist from St Joan Music Ministry. Guest musicians must be experienced in liturgical music, and must be approved by the Director of Music.

Flowers: Flowers should be delivered to the church and remain there as a part of the environment for the Sunday Eucharist. Flower arrangements or candles are not to be placed on the altar table. Aisle runners, flower arches, and the throwing of flower petals down the aisle are not permitted. Nothing can be pinned or taped to the pews. Bows must be attached with floral clips or large rubber bands placed around the top of the pews.

Seasonal environment (Advent/Christmas, Lent Easter, etc.) in the church is NOT to be removed.

No rice, alcohol, etc.: For safety reasons and environmental concerns, we do not permit the throwing of rice, bird seed, confetti, flowers, balloons, etc. Eating and drinking or chewing gum is not allowed in the church or adjacent rooms. Alcohol or drugs are NOT permitted on church grounds. If the bride and/or groom is intoxicated on the day of the wedding, the marriage ceremony will not be celebrated.

Photographs: The couple must designate one official photographer (whether a professional or family friend). They then arrange for this person to meet with the presider before the liturgy to discuss what is allowed. No extra lighting or flash bulbs are allowed during the liturgy. The same restrictions apply to video recording of the wedding. Please be considerate of those who use the church after you. All decorative bows, flowers, boxes, tissues, etc. must be removed from the church pews and vestibules.

Rehearsal: The day and time of the rehearsal will be arranged with the wedding coordinator. All wedding participants are expected to be present and on time for the rehearsal. If the couple would like special traditions or customs particular to your family or national heritage included in the ceremony, they must discuss them with the presider and wedding coordinator before the rehearsal.

We are happy to have you celebrate your wedding liturgy at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. While the wedding liturgy will touch you, your family and friends in an intimate way, it also pertains to the local parish and to the larger church as well. You are making a commitment to each other and to the Church. When you exchange your vows, you offer a visible sign of God's presence and love to the parish in which your wedding is celebrated. You create a new family within that community. In turn, the Church is making a commitment to you, in particular the local parish, promises to be there for you in times of joy and in times of need.

The following guidelines have been established to reflect this commitment. As a liturgy of the parish, your wedding will be influenced and shaped by the parish's pattern of worship, especially the celebration of Sunday Mass. Please look upon these guidelines as an expression of the Church's desire to celebrate your wedding as an integral and welcome part of the parish's worship.

The journey of marriage which you travel together holds many hidden joys—and some sorrows too. There will be many surprises which can interrupt the routine of everyday life and which can keep you alive to each other.

We hope we can be helpful to you during this time when you are beginning your journey together. We appreciate the faith with which you come to the Church to celebrate your mutual pledge in the Sacrament of Marriage. We look forward to celebrating with you the gift of God's love.

A wedding can be scheduled at St. Joan of Arc Church for an affiliated parishioner or immediate family member.

An affiliated parishioner has chosen to be part of our faith community by officially registering in the parish and actively taking part in the life of this faith community.

Financial Offering: \$1200

Fees include: Church usage, musicians and wedding coordinator.

Down Payment: A \$100.00 down payment reserves the date of the wedding. If the wedding is cancelled, the down payment is not refunded.

Total amount is due to the coordinator or parish office 7 days prior to your wedding.

The priest or deacon does not receive any part of this offering. Many people feel it is appropriate to make a separate gift to the priest or deacon for their services. The usual gift to the priest is \$250.00

Fee for marriage preparation with your marriage taking place at another church \$100.00

St. Joan of Arc Parish

2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

San Ramon, CA 94583

Phone: 925 830-0600

Website: www.sjasr.org



Marriage

