



# Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Community

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## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR MARRIAGE

The following documents are required for marriage in the Catholic Church. The pastoral associate assisting your preparation will guide you through these forms and requirements.

### GENERAL DOCUMENTS

- **Questionnaire.** Bride and groom forms to establish freedom to marry. These will be completed during your initial meeting with the pastor, deacon, or pastoral associate.
  
- **Baptismal Certificates.** Newly issued copies of baptismal certificates "with all notations" if one or both are baptized. These must be requested from the parish in which you were baptized. The Catholic Church recognizes and accepts the baptismal certificates of many Christian and Orthodox Churches.
  
- **Affidavit of Free Status for Marriage.** Two witness forms for each party which attest to the freedom of the parties to marry. These forms are usually completed by the parents or close family members of the bride and groom.
  
- **Marriage Preparation Certificate.** A certificate of participation in a marriage preparation process of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. This may include:
  - ◇ *Prepare and Enrich* online pre-marital inventory (\$35 credit card fee)
  - ◇ Holy Rosary Mentor Couple sessions (to discuss the *Prepare and Enrich* pre-marital inventory)
  - ◇ Pre-Cana Sessions at St. Jude Thaddeus parish in Albuquerque (\$75 fee)
  - ◇ Marriage Enrichment Retreat (for those civilly married)
  
- **A civil marriage license.** The couple must apply for a civil marriage license from the county clerk's office and submit it to the parish office at least two weeks prior to the wedding date. The wedding cannot take place without a civil marriage license. Following the wedding it is the responsibility of the couple to take the signed marriage license to the county clerk's office to be recorded.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If any of the following situations apply, additional documents may be required.

- ◇ Mixed religion (for example, a Catholic marrying a non-Catholic or non-Christian)
  - ◇ Second marriage (death, divorce, nullity)
  - ◇ Civil marriage (convalidation)
  - ◇ Delegation for a visiting priest
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- **Dispensations.** A dispensation is needed when a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, and/or for permission to celebrate the wedding before a non-Catholic minister.
    - ◇ If, for example, a Catholic is marrying a non-Catholic, a dispensation from mixed religion or disparity of worship, etc., is required for marriage.
    - ◇ If a marriage involving at least one Catholic takes place before a minister of a Church which is not Catholic, a dispensation from canonical form is required for the Catholic party.
  
  - **Second Marriage or Civil Marriage.** In situations of a second marriage or a blessing of a civil marriage (convalidation), the following documents are also required:
    - ◇ If the previous spouse is **deceased**, a copy of the death certificate must be provided.
    - ◇ If a prior marriage received a **dissolution or declaration of nullity**, the proper information is to be included in the pre-nuptial file.
    - ◇ If the parties were **civily married**, a copy of the civil marriage license is necessary.
  
  - **Delegation for visiting priest/deacon.**
    - ◇ If the bride and groom are members of Holy Rosary but a priest or deacon from another parish will be witnessing the marriage at Holy Rosary, the priest or deacon must submit a letter requesting delegation to the pastor of Holy Rosary. If the priest or deacon is from outside the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, they must request faculties from the Archbishop of Santa Fe.
    - ◇ If the bride and groom are not registered members of Holy Rosary but wish to celebrate their marriage here, they must provide a letter from their pastor granting them permission to celebrate their wedding outside of their parish boundary.