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REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE

Welcome! We are happy that you want to prepare yourselves for this special Wedding day, which will influence your happiness in this life and the next. We assure you that God will bless your love. Therefore, we want to help you with your preparation, and any of our priests will be glad to guide you through this process.

The usual hours on Saturdays for weddings are **11 am, 1 p.m., and/or 3 p.m.**

REQUIREMENTS

❖ One year to six months before the desired wedding date come and speak with a priest for the initial interview. (At this interview he will ask for some information, he will make sure that there are no obstacles, will explain these steps, and reserve the church for the wedding date.)

➤ **Documents you will need to bring:**

- **Birth Certificate**
- Baptism Certificate (must be a recent copy {no older than 6 months} from the parish of baptism), First Communion Certificate and Confirmation Certificate.
- Marriage license expedited two to one month before the wedding date by The Alameda County Records Office which is located at 1106 Madison St Oakland, California 94612 (510) 272-6362 (The Church ceremony is also valid for civil marriage.) or Marriage Certificate – if you are married by Civil Law.
- Your parish's permission, if you belong to another.

All these documents should be here 6 weeks before the date of marriage.

❖ Attend the marriage preparation programs. You are asked to attend one of the preparation programs { extra fee applies depending on which method is chosen}. The Diocese offers the Engaged Encounter, which is a weekend retreat. The parish has trained couples who in their home will give four or five sessions on marriage and family life.

❖ A witness for each person. This witness should have known you well since the age of sixteen (or at least 5 years of knowing you). It is recommended that this witness be the mother or father of the bride/groom

❖ It is recommended that you go to **confession** the Saturday before the wedding.

Liturgical Celebration:

❖ It is important that you concentrate on the **Religious Preparation of your Marriage**, so that it may be a very special moment.

❖ We ask that you choose and name **two people to be the lectors** at the Wedding.

❖ Bride and participants must wear MODEST attire (no strapless gowns). Please cover your exposed parts with a shawl.

❖ The Sponsors (Bestman/Maid of Honor), if they are married, must be married by the Catholic Church.

❖ Rehearsals are held the Thursday prior to the ceremony. It is important that all those who are to participate in the ceremony be present. We ask that you be punctual at all events. If you have hired a wedding coordinator, s/he should talk to the person in charge of the rehearsal from the parish.

MUSIC

If you wish to have music, choose someone you know or obtain a list from the parish office and make a contract with them. The music should be appropriate for church. It is the groom/brides responsibility to pay for the music. Church fees **do not** include Music.

DECORATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY

❖ The church provides three floral arrangements. However, you may bring your own flowers if you want and it is up to the family to arrange for them. Please remove any other decorations from the church after the ceremony or you are welcome to leave some for our Sunday Masses.

❖ We do not allow the throwing of rice, flowers, seeds or anything else in or outside of the Church. We do not allow runners either.

❖ We gladly honor cultural customs, however, you must talk to the priest about them beforehand.

❖ You will have a half hour before mass to decorate, and a half hour after mass for pictures. If you come late for the wedding, the time for pictures will be shortened accordingly.

❖ Photographers and videographers are not allowed to walk around during the wedding, or go up the steps into the altar area.

COST

The requested donation is \$500.00. In order to reserve the church and write it down in our calendar, you are asked to give a non-refundable donation of \$250.00, and the difference of \$250.00 should be given within 2 months of your first donation. We take cash, Money Orders or cashier checks. We DO NOT accept personal checks.

If the ceremony is suspended, the parish will keep 50% of the donation.

Before any arrangements are made it is required that the bride and groom read, understand and agree with all these requirements.

I duly swear that we agree and understand the above requirements:

Groom
date: _____

Bride
date: _____