

immediately after the wedding. Absolutely no placement of candles, flowers, etc. will be allowed on the altar to enhance photos. During your 30 minutes allotted for picture taking, please remember you are in a place of worship.

- **Times:** Weddings normally take place either on Fridays at 4pm or on Saturday at 11am or 2pm. For other times, please make arrangements with the priest or deacon celebrant assigned to celebrate your wedding.
- **Celebrating the Sacraments:** Catholic engaged persons are expected to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (regularly) and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (at least once a week on Sunday) as part of their preparation process. The celebration of the sacraments will prepare the couple for a more meaningful experience of the wedding liturgy and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ who is the source of fruitful married life.
- **Musicians:** Gerry Ramos, pianist/cantor, can be reached at 707-718-4775. Dominick DiCarlo, pianist/cantor, can be reached at 530-852-1919. It is the couple's responsibility to arrange for the music for the ceremony. Recorded music is not permitted.



\$500 -Offering for the Mass
(A non-refundable deposit of \$250 is requested to reserve the date. Additional \$50 for non-parishioners of St. Mary's)
PLUS
\$150 Donation for wedding coordinator

Please make the offering to the church and wedding coordinator donation, at the latest ONE month in advance of the wedding date.
(If paying by check, please make payable to St. Mary's Church in the Parish Office.)

Other fees:

\$40 - FOCCUS assessment

\$30 - Introductory Session for FertilityCare/NFP course

\$100 - Marriage Prep classes

(Payable to respective parties at time of registration)

If any members of the wedding party are found to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the wedding will be cancelled. Absolutely NO alcohol will be allowed in the church or on the church grounds.

May God bless your marriage abundantly!



*Preparing for the
Sacrament of Marriage*

The Sacrament of Marriage



**"THE TWO WILL
BECOME
one flesh."**

Mark 10:8, NIV

*St. Mary's Parish
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Preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage has had an exalted place in God's eyes from the beginning of creation. Marriage is not only a gift from God to the couple, but also a gift to the world. By sending his Son to redeem us, God redeemed marriage. In Christian Marriage, husband and wife mirror the love that Christ has for the Church.

By choosing to be married at St. Mary's Catholic Church, you are expressing your desire that your life-long union be consecrated in a special way and you are making a commitment to adhere to the practice and heritage of the Catholic faith.

MARRIAGE PREP GUIDELINES

The Church is obligated to provide preparation to couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. In order to provide adequate and appropriate marriage prep, universal and diocesan Church law requires the following:

- Initial Contact:** Engaged couples desiring to be married at St. Mary's must contact and schedule to meet the priest or deacon at least 6 months before anticipated wedding date.
- Assessment Process:** Each couple is expected to complete the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open

Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) or REFOCCUS (civilly married couples) inventory tool and to discuss the results with a priest, deacon or FOCCUS facilitator.

- Marriage Prep Program:** Couples are required to participate in either parish-based marriage prep classes, or Engaged Encounter (<https://engagedencounter.com>), or an online course (www.scd.org/family-and-faith-formation/engaged-couples#programs).
- FertilityCare/NFP Course:** Each couple is to complete the 1-hr FertilityCare Introductory Session. Contact Andreyá Arévalo (andrey@stmarysvacaville.com or 707-446-4231) to register. Fee is \$30 per couple.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Baptismal Certificate:** *with notations* of the Catholic(s) issued within the last 6 months..
- Pre-Nuptial Inquire (Form A):** each candidate for marriage will be interviewed separately at initial contact meeting.
- Letter of Freedom (Form B):** two witnesses for each candidate for marriage will be interviewed to provide testimony.
- Marriage License:** state law requires that the couple obtain a marriage license. The license should be delivered to the parish office, at the latest, a week before the ceremony.

CHURCH GUIDELINES

- **Flowers:** You may decorate the church with flowers. However, no flowers or decorations may be placed on the altar or in front of the tabernacle and no flowers or ribbons may be tacked to the pews with thumbtacks, staples of any kind or scotch tape. No real petals may be used down the aisle. Fake petals may be used, but it's the responsibility of the couple to ensure they are picked up before leaving the church.
- **Rice, birdseed, bubbles:** The throwing of rice, birdseed or confetti is prohibited in and around the facilities and in the parking lot. The possibility of accidents resulting in physical injury is too great. Also, no bubbles are allowed before or after the ceremony.
- **Wedding attire:** Since you are choosing to be married at God's altar, it is common sense that modest and proper church attire be worn by the bride, wedding attendants and all involved in the ceremony. Modesty in God's house is the guiding rule.
- **Rehearsal:** The time of the rehearsal will be set well in advance. Friday evening either at 4pm or 5pm are reserved for wedding rehearsals. Since we have a very busy parish, it is imperative that rehearsals start and end on time. You will be assigned a wedding coordinator, either Andreyá Arevalo (707-446-4231) or Corinne Sexton (707-449-4616).
- **Pictures:** Photos may be taken during the ceremony. Pictures in the church are taken