

Documents Required for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Since the Sacrament of Matrimony celebrates the unbreakable commitment between a man and a woman who are free to make this mature decision in the community of believers, certain documents are required to establish your sacramental status within the Church, your freedom from any previous unions, and sworn statements attesting to your clear understanding of the nature and responsibilities of Christian marriage. The following required documents should be presented to your priest or mailed to the Parish Office. When you mail a required document to the Parish Office, be sure to include your name, your wedding date and the name of your priest.

BAPTISM CERTIFICATE

Catholics must give the priest a new copy (issued within the last six months) of their baptism certificate. You can simply contact the parish where your baptism took place and ask for a new certificate. Baptized, non-Catholic Christians are asked to give the priest a copy of the record of baptism; it does not need to be new.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES

Catholics are to present copies of the certificates that they were given at the time of receiving these sacraments. Either original or copies are acceptable. The Sacrament of Marriage is not denied because of the lack of First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

FREEDOM TO MARRY FORMS

Each party is to have two completed "Freedom to Marry" forms witnessed by the priest or notarized by a notary public.

CERTIFICATES OF MARRIAGE PREPARATION

You will be given a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the marriage preparation program or retreat you attended that must be given to your priest prior to your wedding.

LITURGICAL PREPARATION: TOGETHER FOR LIFE

At one of your meetings with the priest, he will give you a booklet titled "Together for Life." There is a form in the back of this booklet that will help you plan your wedding celebration. Please complete this form and give the original to your priest and a copy to your wedding coordinator.

CIVIL MARRIAGE LICENSE

A civil marriage license is obtained from the county court and is valid for 90 days from the date of issue. This license, along with the return envelope, must be given to your priest at St. Edward the Confessor Parish or the Parish Office a minimum of 14 days prior to your wedding.

The Orange County- Clerk Recorder: South County Branch Office, Laguna Hills Civic Center, 24031 El Toro Road, Suite 150, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. (714) 834-2500 Office Hours: M-F / 9:00am to 4:00pm