

What Documents Must Be Provided?

One questionnaire each is filled out by the engaged couple stating identity, status in the Church and freedom to marry.

A close relative or friend completes a similar **Witness Questionnaire** form confirming the accuracy of the above answers.

Catholics and any Baptized Christian must provide recent copies (within the last 12 months) of their **Christian Baptismal Certificate**

Planning the Ceremony

Time for Ceremony: Weddings are scheduled two hours apart to prevent rush, to encourage proper liturgical celebration and to allow the best picture taking possible. Weddings may take place on Saturdays at 10am, 12:00pm and 2:00pm and on weekdays by arrangement with the Presider.

Rehearsal: The couple will be working closely with the wedding coordinator at St. Bonaventure Church to familiarize the wedding party with the Church space, processions, the sanctuary, the ushering and any special ceremonies chosen by the couple. The couple will be setting a rehearsal date with the wedding coordinator.

The wedding coordinator will be going over various aspects of the ceremony with the couple. Some of these: music, flowers, photography and videography. She will also be present the day of the wedding to arrange the church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We urge Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before their wedding service, not only to confess their sins in a spirit of repentance but also to ask God's Gift of Healing so that they might enter marriage as selflessly and spiritually whole as possible. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Bonaventure every Saturday at 3:30pm or by appointment with a priest (925-672-5800)

Financial Offering

Church Wedding ~ The Financial Offering to St. Bonaventure Church for a wedding ceremony in the church is \$635, which includes the services of a Sound/Technical person and stipend to the Presider. The financial offering also includes church use fee of \$500*.

Chapel Wedding ~ The Financial Offering to St. Bonaventure Church for a wedding ceremony in the chapel is \$500, which includes a stipend to the Presider and chapel use fee of \$400*. Please note, the Chapel holds approximately 70 guests only.

Wedding Coordinator ~ In addition to the above schedule of Financial Offering for both the Church and Chapel Weddings, a separate fee of \$250 is given to your Wedding Coordinator. The stipend to the Musicians is separate and negotiated directly with them.

**Due to the tight schedule of ceremonies in our facilities, and in consideration of a sense of courtesy to all involved, the financial offering includes a "late fee" deposit of \$100. If your wedding begins more than 15 minutes late, you will lose the late fee and your wedding Mass will become a wedding service. If you were having a wedding service and are late, you may not be able to have pictures taken after the wedding service. There is more than enough time between the time slots of 10AM, 12PM, and 2:00PM to accomplish everything that is required if everyone is on time. The hope is that your wedding begins on time. Please contact your Wedding Coordinator for reimbursement of the \$100 "late fee".*

How Do I Begin?

At least six months before the desired marriage ceremony date or earlier, please contact the parish office at (925) 672-5800 to begin the preparation of selecting a Presider. The Presider will then call to set an appointment with you to discuss your wedding plans, as well as setting a wedding date.

Celebrating

The Sacrament of Marriage

at

St. Bonaventure

Catholic Church



5562 Clayton Road

Concord CA 94521

Phone: (925) 672-5800

Fax: (925) 672-4606

www.stbonaventure.net

Who Can Be Married at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

A local parish church is the traditional place for a Catholic wedding to be celebrated because we celebrate the great Sacraments of the Church where the community of faith gathers to worship. Catholics gather together in the church home to mark and celebrate the spiritual passage of the Christian life

Is a Wedding Possible Elsewhere?

Once a couple is prepared to celebrate a wedding service in the Church, a priest can accompany a couple to another wedding-like service in another venue renewing their vows. The smaller wedding in the church would be recognized as the official Catholic Wedding.

Am I Free to Marry?

The Catholic Church recognizes the validity of any marriage celebrated outside of a church, whether between Catholics or between a Catholic and a person of another faith. Normally, an annulment through the Catholic Church is required before another marriage can be celebrated in the Catholic Church.

How Old Must I Be?

The current marriage policy in the Diocese of Oakland states that a couple must be 20 years of age prior to the date of marriage. If younger, each couple must enter a special process of evaluation and counseling and receive permission of the Diocesan Tribunal before a marriage date may be set.

Am I Prepared to Celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Church?

A Catholic believes that the Sacrament of Marriage is more than a legal contract with rights and responsibilities to be fulfilled by a husband and wife. The Sacrament of Marriage is a sign to the couple that God is as important to them as they are to one another. It is the celebration of a covenant with God and with one another to live in a permanent, faithful relationship open to the gift of children in family life.

St. Bonaventure Church provides three preparation weekends each year for the personal preparation of the couple. Couples are invited to attend one such weekend. The Diocese of Oakland also provides weekend preparation programs as well.

Engaged Couples Weekend: This program presents the beauty and dignity of the Sacrament of Marriage as a sign of Christ's love for the Church. It stresses the importance of marriage as a covenant of love and fidelity for life according to the teaching of Christ and the Church. Working as a team, sessions are facilitated and presented by specially trained married couples from the St. Bonaventure Community.

The sessions are held at St. Bonaventure on selected weekends throughout the year beginning on Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm and Sunday 8:00am to 2:00 pm. The cost is \$125 per couple. Couples are asked to take Living Your Strengths Survey prior to the weekend and bring the results with them Saturday morning.

Living Your Strengths is part of the Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment. Discover your **top 5 strengths** and learn how your "signature strengths" help you communicate and can strengthen your marriage. The assessment is taken on line and costs 9.99/person www.gallupstrengthscenter.com. Please bring your results with you to the Saturday session. We will be using them in our discussions.

Contact Matthew and Stacey Remington (672-4006) for more information or to register for a weekend.

November 14-15, 2015
February 20-21 or June 25-26, 2016

ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

PREPARE: One optional preparation experience is PREPARE. Step one is to take a "Relationship Inventory" designed to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of a couple in their relationship. After taking the inventory, four 50 minute sessions debrief the couple on the results of the inventory and allow sharing and discussion. There is no "pass or fail". The cost for this is \$395

Catholic Engaged Encounter: Another option is the Engaged Couples Weekend prepared by the Diocese of Oakland. It is a retreat weekend Experience away from the busyness of life, usually held at a Retreat House or Hotel. During the weekend you will have an opportunity to reflect on your lives together by discussing such topics as your strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, your attitudes toward money, sex, children, family, your role in the Church and society in a face to face way. The weekend begins at 7:00 pm on Friday and concludes with Mass at approximately 4:30 pm on Sunday. Please arrange through the Family Life Ministry Office at the Diocese of Oakland, (510) 267-8392.