

WEDDINGS

Thank you for considering the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph for your wedding. The following covers our basic policy; however, you are most welcome to call and speak with Anai Torres, at 408/283-8100 ext. 2204 for further information and/or when you are ready to make your reservation.

Weddings are scheduled on Saturdays, at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. as well as Friday and Sunday(at 3:00 p.m. only). Some conditions apply to Sunday weddings. Each wedding is allotted a 2-hour time slot, which allows for seating of guests, the ceremony and pictures. For example, if your wedding is scheduled for 10:00 am, your time will begin at 9:30 am and end at 11:30 am.

Fees for the use of the Cathedral are a total of \$1,875.00 for parishioners and \$2,000.00 for couples from other parishes. A parishioner is a person who is registered or lives within parish boundaries and has a history of support and participation. Music and coordination are included in the Cathedral fee. A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit is required to be paid within a week of the reservation being approved and the balance is due 6 weeks prior to the date of the wedding. Additional fees may apply for Holiday weddings. A special discount is given for 10:00 a.m. Saturday weddings.

Reserving the Cathedral requires that you schedule an initial visit with one of our priests regardless of who is presiding or preparing you. If you are not a parishioner of the Cathedral we encourage you to consult a priest from your own parish about his availability to preside over your ceremony and prepare you for the Sacrament. Your priest needs to verify that both of you are free to marry in the Catholic Church and you must allow at least 6 months of preparation prior to your wedding. Your priest will receive written confirmation from us following the \$300.00 non-refundable deposit.

Marriage Preparation – A marriage preparation retreat as well as the Natural Family Planning class is required for couples preparing for marriage. The Cathedral Basilica offers a one-day retreat 3 times per year, for more information call Antonia Lira at 408/283-8100 ext.2204. You may also attend a 2½-day Diocesan Engaged Encounter Retreat, which is \$400.00 per couple. Your priest will advise you of any other activities that may be required and their fees. All documentation that substantiates the completion of marriage preparation must be submitted to your priest. Your priest will need to submit all your paperwork no less than 6 weeks prior to your wedding.

Music – Our music director will be your consultant regarding musicians and music selections and will also cantor for your ceremony. A Cathedral organist is provided. Should you wish to contract additional liturgical musicians, we recommend budgeting approximately \$150.00 for each. It is required that our music director meet with you to approve the selections, provide technical information to your musicians and be present at your ceremony to help things run smoothly. You may also visit the Cathedral web site for more information about wedding music selections and materials for your convenience.

Decorations and Environment – Two arrangements will be provided by Citti's florist for the Cathedral that will remain in place behind the Bishop's seat and cannot be moved. These arrangements reflect the liturgical season, but at times can accommodate our wedding couples. Please call Citti's to ask if your colors can be worked into these arrangements. Citti's can also assist you with supplementing these arrangements should you choose to purchase additional flowers.

Photography – you may select your own photographer however they must follow the guidelines of the Cathedral.

Ceremony Coordinator – The ceremony coordinator will contact you 4 to 6 weeks prior to your wedding date to arrange the details of your ceremony, conduct your wedding rehearsal and assist on your wedding day.

Frequently-asked questions:

"Do I have a simple ceremony or a nuptial Mass?" You work this out with the priest who will be witnessing your vows. He will make the decision after such a discussion with you.

My fiancé and I have not attended church for a long time. Can we still get married in your church?

If you would like to marry in any Catholic Church, it is important to establish a tradition of attending mass regularly. In this way, you will become re-acquainted with the prayers and rituals in the Mass and you will get to know a priest with whom you feel comfortable enough to invite to accompany you in the journey through the preparation and the ceremony. Please discuss this further during your initial interview with a Cathedral priest.

We're very concerned about coordinating the reception hall, etc. for that day. Can we book the church now; it is never too early to inquire about availability. If you want a particular priest to celebrate, it is a good idea to also consult with him.

My uncle is a priest but he lives out of the country. Could he preside at our wedding?

Any priest that can provide a letter of suitability from his Bishop stating that he is in good standing may preside. The marriage prep will may be overseen by another priest/deacon by the couple's local parish.

My fiancé is not Catholic. Can we get married in the Catholic Church? I was married before. Can I remarry in the Catholic Church? I still need to make my First Communion and Confirmation. Is this a problem? These are some of the issues that need to be identified and discussed during the initial interview with your priest. Each situation will be examined individually by the priest who will work with the couple to address specific needs. The priest discerns with the couple their readiness for marriage in the Catholic Church and addresses unique pastoral concerns.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

Please contact our **Reservation Coordinator, Anai Torres, at 408/283-8100 ext. 2204** for the reservation or if you have further questions regarding your Cathedral wedding. We look forward to serving you as your wedding day approaches.