

## **FAQ about Catholic Marriage**

### **How long does it take to prepare to be married in a Catholic Church?**

One year is a good window of time. Six months is what the NCCB (National Council of Catholic Bishops) says as minimum. At six months it is very difficult to meet the preparation requirements for some examples.

### **What kind of paper work is needed?**

For a couple who both are active Catholics, a sacrament form is filled out in the first meeting. The couple needs to secure updated baptismal certificates dated in a six month time of the wedding. These baptismal certificates have all the sacramental life of the person notated on the back.

### **Can a Catholic marry a non-Catholic?**

Yes, Catholics are allowed to marry non-Catholics, non-Christians, and uncatechized people. However, a Dispensation from the Bishop is required. The priest will apply for this Dispensation.

### **When is a wedding with or without a Mass?**

If the bride and the groom are active participating Catholics, there will be a Mass with the Roman Wedding Rite. If only the bride or groom is Catholic, there is no Mass. If both are Catholic but only one practices, there is no Mass.

### **Can we get married Catholic at a church of different faith?**

Yes. For this to happen, the couple needs the same Catholic preparation as would any other couple. For the marriage to happen the couple still need a priest or deacon to apply for the dispensation from the bishop. The Wedding Rite is done then by the minister of that faith. The wedding is then recorded in the Catholic Church.

### **In a mixed religion wedding, are other ministers of other faiths welcome into the Catholic Rite?**

Yes, the priest or deacon does the Rite. The guest clergy is present and offers a blessing at the conclusion of the Rite. However, it is never celebrated.

### **Are other priests or deacons welcome to St. Vincent Ferrer Church for weddings?**

The parish is obligated to supply a priest or a deacon from the parish staff.

Guest clergy in good standings can be given permission by the pastor. This is never presumed or imposed. If given, St. Vincent Ferrer Church norms and guidelines remain intact.

### **What about guest musicians?**

The parish worship office supplies music ministry for all weddings (and funerals). Permission for a guest musician, whom is qualified in Church music, may be given by the pastor. If given, this would be a song or hymn. The St. Vincent Ferrer Church staff and main minister of music are present doing the majority of the music.

### **Can someone get married at St. Vincent Ferrer Church even if they are being prepared in another state or diocese?**

Yes, when this does happen it becomes very involved. Resources of wedding and marriage options in the state diocese must be compared and worked through. Clergy being put in touch with each other is the best route for this.

### **What about a bride and a groom living in different states? Where should they prepare?**

Marriage preparation only is designed to work with the bride and the groom in the same place at the same time. Marriage work needs to be set up with the couple's challenging schedule. The Catholic legal paperwork-- there is much--needs to be done and it works best in the parish in which the wedding will happen.

### **Can anyone get married at St. Vincent Ferrer Church?**

No, because St. Vincent Ferrer Church is a Roman Catholic Church, either the bride or the groom must be Catholic. The Wedding Rite is a sacrament. This is not merely a building for rent. Being Catholic means a frequent relationship in the weekly life of the Catholic Church.

### **What about not being a member of St. Vincent Ferrer Church?**

Membership means the parishioner has a membership number. If the bride or groom is not members and desire marriage at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, they will need a letter from their pastor giving St. Vincent Ferrer Church jurisdiction to witness the wedding.