

We are happy with you! We rejoice with you! You are choosing to be married in the Roman Catholic Church. Marriage is a sacrament of the Church. Your ceremony is a holy and sacred time, it reflects the union that exists between Jesus Christ and his Church.

As you begin your arrangements for the celebration of your marriage, you will find the details of these procedures important. The community of St. Juliana Falconieri Parish looks forward to the celebration of your wedding day!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Marriage in the Roman Catholic Church differs from “civil marriage” because it is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. Neither Jesus nor the Church created the institution; they did bring it to the dignity of a divine mystery. You cannot enter into marriage in the Church without receiving the grace of the sacrament. Your marriage is a sacramental sign.

Therefore, all couples to be married at St. Juliana Falconieri Church must follow the marriage preparation guidelines required by the Catholic Diocese of Orange. These guidelines include meeting with a priest or deacon to prepare you for marriage. This normally happens at least six months before your marriage date.

Most likely you will be advised to enroll in and complete one of two marriage preparation programs offered throughout the United States. These are the Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend or similar preparation. The priest/deacon will help you with these programs. Upon completion of the program you will be asked to give your certificate of completion of the program or a copy of it to the priest/deacon. Kindly schedule your weekend or classes through the site: eweekend.org

The priest/deacon preparing you for marriage will ask you some questions to be sure you are free to marry in the Church. If you have been married in any way ever before, that marriage must be discussed and clarified.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

1. **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE.** Catholics must present a *newly* issued copy of their baptismal certificate from the parish church of their baptism. Simply contact the parish of your baptism, tell them that you are planning on getting married and need a new copy of your baptismal certificate. Have it mailed to you. DO NOT present any copy or duplicate copy of any baptismal certificate that you currently possess. Get a newly issued one, with a current date on it. If a non-Catholic party has a copy of his/her baptismal certificate, please bring it.
2. **LETTERS OF FREEDOM TO MARRY.** Each of you will be given a “Freedom to Marry” form to be completed before you can be married. Please receive it and return it prior to your marriage.
3. **CIVIL LICENSE.** You *must* obtain a civil marriage license from the County Recorder’s Office and present it to the priest/deacon *before* your ceremony. These are valid for ninety days prior to the wedding date. *You cannot be married without a valid civil license from the State of California. Your ceremony cannot begin without the priest or deacon having your license.*

YOUR CEREMONY:

The Catholic Sacrament of Marriage will be celebrated in the church building itself. The marriage rite may be celebrated in a full Mass or it may be a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word; not a full Mass but with Catholic prayers, readings from Scripture, a homily, vows, blessing of rings, various prayers of the faithful, the Our Father, and Nuptial Blessing. Your wedding ceremony must express the faith of the whole Church.

Please regard your ceremony as a sacred moment, a sacrament, and an encounter with Jesus. Encourage all who celebrate your wedding day with you to do the same.

MUSIC:

Choose appropriate music that is pleasant to hear. Choose acclamations and hymns that are familiar to regular church goers. All church music ought to be sacred in nature. The norm is Catholic Church music. We will assist you with resources.

Planning your church music begins with contacting [Todd Helm, Music Director](#). All musicians are paid a fee which compensates them for their services.

Outside musicians are generally not permitted. If an outside resource is brought in, a “bench fee” of \$75.00, payable to St. Juliana Church will be collected. This is a matter of justice since musician stipends are considered part of the musician’s regular salary and the resident musician remains responsible for the integrity of the liturgy and use of parish equipment.

RECORDED MUSIC IS NOT ALLOWED.

FLOWERS: Appropriate arrangements are allowed. Please do not overpower the sanctuary/altar area with flowers. No arrangements may be affixed to the ends of the pews. Be sure the arrangements will not leak water onto any carpet. The scattering of rose petals or anything else along the aisle is not allowed. Candles in floral arrangements are not permitted.

AISLE RUNNERS are not permitted in the church.

UNITY CANDLE: The so called “unity candle” is not part of the Roman Rite and is not allowed. The prayers, readings, homily, and blessings of the liturgy speak of unity; there is no need to manufacture any other sign. If this candle arrangement is important to you, we suggest you make it part of the Table Prayer at your reception.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photographers may not go beyond the sanctuary (steps beyond the aisle). Please keep aisles free from photographic equipment. Do not become more obvious than the couple or ministers. Do nothing that detracts from a place of worship. Posed photography will be stopped when in the good judgment of the priest/deacon/wedding coordinator it detracts from what is proper in a church. Please do not bring drone photography into the church building.

BUBBLES, CONFETTI, seeds, and etc. are not permitted inside or to be thrown outside the church.

YOU MUST RESPECT THE CHURCH AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP. Do not consume liquor on church grounds. Do not bring water bottles into the church. No gum chewing in the church.

BE PUNCTUAL FOR YOUR WEDDING. IF YOU ARE LATE, THE PRIEST MAY DECIDE NOT TO CELEBRATE A FULL MASS BUT CHANGE YOUR CEREMONY TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD.

FEES FOR YOUR WEDDING.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ANY SACRAMENT. IT IS CUSTOMARY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SERVICES OF THE CHURCH.

CHURCH: For registered members of the parish: \$500. Non-parishioner fee is \$600.00. Please make check payable to St. Juliana Falconieri Church.

MUSICIAN FEES: cantor/organist/pianist: \$175.00 each. Payable to St. Juliana Church.

CHURCH WEDDING COORDINATOR: \$125.00. Please make check payable to St. Juliana Falconieri Church.

ALTAR SERVERS: The parish provides altar servers for each wedding unless other arrangements have been made. At your discretion, offer them a monetary gift, suggestion - \$10.00 each.

PRIEST/DEACON: The fee given to the church is not received by the officiating priest or deacon. You may wish to offer him a gift or a personal monetary offering. This is totally a matter of personal discretion and is in no way required.