

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

To begin the marriage preparation process the couples should make an appointment to meet with the priest, of their choice, to set the date and discuss marriage preparations. We strongly recommend that you contact our office at least six months prior to the marriage since this would allow us time to complete all requirements.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- 1) Baptismal Certificate: All Catholics are required to submit a recent issued baptismal certificate which is issued within the last 6 months.
 - a. Baptized Christians who were baptized in other churches also required to submit their baptismal certificate. Original copy is accepted.
- 2) Dispensation: a dispensation is required for a catholic who marries a non-catholic in which the promise of raising their children in the Catholic faith is signed.
- 3) Letters of Freedom: Each person needs to have two (2) witnesses to sign the letter of freedom stating that he/she is free to get married.
- 4) Pre-Nuptial Inquiry: this document will be done with the priest.

COUPLE PREPARATION

- 1) FOCCUS: (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study) is an instrument, NOT A TEST, for marriage preparation. Once finishing with the instrument, the couple will make an appointment to see a marriage counselor to review the result. Dr. Mike DiPaolo: 310-268-7792 or 310-403-7792, and the priest will also discuss the result with the couple.
- 2) ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: It is strongly recommended that couples should register for the Engaged Encounter weekend. For information and registration and availability visit the website: www.CEEofLA.org or call (888) 267-3600.

WEDDING CEREMONY

THE PRIEST

The parish priest is here to help you in every way possible. He normally officiates at the wedding ceremony. If you request the priest to officiate your marriage ceremony outside of the parish, a stipend of \$300 should be paid to SMT (not to the priest) for his service.

GUEST PRIEST

If a guest priest is to perform the wedding ceremony, delegation from the pastor or his associate is necessary. The guest priest is expected to do the preparation work, unless it is impossible for him to do so. All necessary documents should be given to the pastor or his associate at least one month before the wedding. Upon receipt of all the papers, permission/delegation will be given to him by the pastor or his associate. If difficulties are encountered in this matter, please consult with us.

CEREMONY

The priest will meet with you one month before your wedding to discuss the ceremony. All questions concerning the Liturgy and the readings are to be referred to the priest.

TIME OF MARRIAGE

Friday evening: 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Saturday:

10:30am or 11:00 am

1:00 pm

3:00 pm

Sunday: No Wedding (No exception).

MUSIC:

- Couples have the freedom to choose the singer(s) and the musician(s) to perform at their weddings. You can contact them directly and select music with them. All selections are to be approved by the priests.
- It is the policy of St. Martin of Tours to use our professional soloists who are experience in performing wedding liturgy.

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is conducted by Mrs. Antoinette Nolan, whose home phone number is (310) 470-3785. She will coordinate the time of the wedding rehearsal with the church schedule, and she will be present to coordinate your wedding ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHING AND VIDEOTAPING

Photographing and videotaping are permitted during the ceremony. The photographer must consult with the priest before the wedding. The video photographer should follow the same procedure. To avoid confusion the photographing and the videotaping should be discussed with the priest during the marriage preparation procedures. No strobe or floodlights are permitted during the marriage ceremony. No manned cameras are allowed in the sanctuary area. An unmanned camera must be in such a position so as not to interfere with aesthetic beauty of the sanctuary in other words it should be hardly visible.

No pictures are allowed in the church after the ceremony. However, exception will be given for special circumstances. You should discuss this with the priest. Once again, the church must be cleared by that time to allow quiet in the church for the parishioners who avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is also the time we must prepare the church before the 5:30 evening Mass.

FLOWERS

Flowers are your entire responsibility. We request that any flowers in the sanctuary should be left as gifts to the Church. We will give couples receipts for the donation of the flowers. The church assumes no cost for flowers. No flowers may be attached to the pew with metal wire or tape. No asparagus fern is allowed because it is so difficult to clean off the carpet. No flower arrangements are allowed on the altar. No runners are permitted for reasons both of safety and the preservation of the carpet.

FINANCE

The Church is first and foremost a spiritual organization, but at the same time it is a physical building. Therefore, there are expenses for maintaining this parish. So, we are asking for your support in order for us to continue providing services. Please understand that your donation is not the price of your wedding ceremony because the grace of God is absolutely free and cannot be bought but a contribution to the mission of the Church.

If you have financial difficulty, the priest would be more than happy to discuss the matter with you.

