



**ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

3955 ORANGE AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90807

(562) 424-8595 Office | (562) 595-7875 Fax | church@stbarnabaslb.org | www.stbarnabaslb.org

**PRELIMINARY WEDDING INQUIRY:**

**Date 1<sup>st</sup> Seen:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Requested Wedding Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY \*\*\*

GROOM'S FULL NAME:	BRIDE'S FULL NAME:
OCCUPATION:	OCCUPATION:
ADDRESS: City/State/ZIP	ADDRESS: City/State/ZIP
PHONE:	PHONE:
EMAIL:	EMAIL:
DATE OF BIRTH:	DATE OF BIRTH:
CITY/STATE OF BIRTH:	CITY/STATE OF BIRTH:
BAPTISMAL DENOMINATION:	BAPTISMAL DENOMINATION:
DATE OF BAPTISM:	DATE OF BAPTISM:
CITY OF BAPTISM/CHURCH:	CITY OF BAPTISM/CHURCH:
CONFIRMATION: YES _____ NO _____	CONFIRMATION: YES _____ NO _____
<u>PRESENT MARITAL STATUS (check one):</u> A) NEVER BEEN MARRIED _____ B) CIVILLY MARRIED _____ C) DIVORCED _____ D) SEPARATED _____ E) WIDOWER _____ F) RELIGIOUS VOWS _____	<u>PRESENT MARITAL STATUS (check one):</u> A) NEVER BEEN MARRIED _____ B) CIVILLY MARRIED _____ C) DIVORCED _____ D) SEPARATED _____ E) WIDOWER _____ F) RELIGIOUS VOWS _____

\*\*\*\*\* FOR OFFICE USE ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

*In case of a prior marriage by one or both parties (even if only a lack of form), no wedding date shall be set until a decision has been reached by the Marriage Tribunal.*

**OTHER POINTS TO BE COVERED:**

- 1) Couple's dating history
- 2) Why is the couple being married in the Catholic Church? What does marriage in the Church mean to them?
- 3) Discuss couple's view on marriage regarding permanency, fidelity, and children.
- 4) Discuss couple's present religious practice, Church attendance, Sacraments, their family religious education.
- 5) Financial situation of the couple
- 6) Are both families in favor of the marriage?
- 7) Outline Church documents necessary for the wedding
- 8) In case of pregnancy, refer for counseling

**NOTES:**

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# **THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Information & Guidelines**

## **THE IMPORTANCE AND DIGNITY OF THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Married Christians, in virtue of the Sacrament of Matrimony, signify and share in the mystery of the unity and fruitful love, which exists between Christ and His Church. They help each other to attain to the holiness in their married lives and in the rearing and education of their children: and they have their own special right among the people of God. Marriage arises in the covenant of marriage, or irrevocable consent, which each partner freely bestows on and accepts from the other. This intimate union and the good of the children impose total fidelity on each of them and argue for an unbreakable oneness between them. Christ the Lord raised this union to the dignity of a Sacrament so that it might more clearly recall and more easily reflect his own unbreakable union with his Church.

Christian couples, therefore, nourish and develop their marriage by undivided affection, which wells up from the fountain of divine love. They remain faithful in body and mind, in good times and in bad.

## **WELCOME TO SAINT BARNABAS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Thank you for choosing our beautiful Church, founded in 1939. We kindly ask that those who seek the Sacrament of Marriage, to please email the Parish Office at [church@stbarnabaslb.org](mailto:church@stbarnabaslb.org) or call us at 562-424-8595 at least 6-9 months prior to the wedding date.

## **THE PROCESS THAT LEADS TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE AT OUR PARISH:**

- 1) Fill out Preliminary Wedding Inquiry Form
- 2) Meet with Pastor/Priest/Deacon for Pre-Nuptial Inquiry
- 3) Sign Freedom to Marry forms
- 4) Provide additional documentation (if applicable)
- 5) Set the Wedding & Rehearsal Date
- 6) Attend a Marriage Preparation Class and/or Marriage Encounter for Engaged Couples
- 7) Take FOCCUS Test questionnaire (takes approx. 1 hr)
- 8) Attend a counseling session (go over Foccus test results, etc.)
- 9) Plan the Liturgy
- 10) Plan the Music
- 11) Obtain a Marriage License, drop it off at our Parish Office (2-4 weeks prior to Wedding date)
- 12) Meet with the Celebrant who will be officiating your ceremony
- 13) Wedding Rehearsal (Complete "Together for Life" Program Guide & provide copy to Deb & Office)

## **REQUESTED CERTIFICATES:** (Both parties must provide the following documents)

- 1) Baptism Certificate – Newly issued from the Church where the person was Baptized. The reason for this is to assist in establishing the freedom to marry.
- 2) Confirmation Certificate Copies – If possible, this may be originals or newly issued. These are used to determine the person's Catholic upbringing. (1<sup>st</sup> Communion certificates are optional). Once these have been collected, the Parish Office will schedule a meeting with the Pastor/Priest/Deacon, with the couple for the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry.



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- 3) Deposit – A deposit of \$100.00 is due at the beginning stages of the process. This is to hold your requested Wedding date and time. This deposit is non-refundable, in case of cancellation by one of the parties. This deposit counts towards the total **Church Wedding Fee (\$550.00)**, which must be received in full to the Parish Office at least ONE MONTH before the Wedding date. Please note: If the Bride or Groom belongs to another Catholic Church other than St. Barnabas, they must obtain a letter from their home Parish for permission to be married outside their Parish boundaries.

### **PRE-NUPTIAL INQUIRY:**

The prenuptial inquiry will be done in the presence of a Priest, Deacon or his delegate. During the inquiry, they will ask that the required forms be completed for each party, including but not limited to the Declaration of Freedom and Dispensation (if applicable).

Declaration of Freedom - Each party to the marriage must obtain two forms, signed in the presence of a church minister or his delegate. The secretary will assist with this process. Each witness is to contact the office and make an appointment to meet with a Priest or Deacon to complete the form. Witnesses shall be at least 18 years of age, know the bride/groom for a minimum of 10 years and preferably be a Parent, God Parent or close relative of the bride/groom. These forms must be submitted as soon as possible after the inquiry.

Dispensation - The Minister will determine if this process is required and will provide the necessary forms for completion by the bride and/or groom.

### **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

In some cases, the Minister will work with the couple on obtaining additional documentation for the bride and/or groom as needed.

### **PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION:**

Couples planning to get married in the Catholic Church, whether for the first time or in a con-validated marriage, are expected to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program such as: The Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend retreat ([ceeofla.org](http://ceeofla.org)) or a Marriage Preparation Class: (Contact Candy Metoyer from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles: [cmetoyer@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:cmetoyer@la-archdiocese.org)). This requirement must be completed, before the wedding. It is highly recommended that reservations be made as soon as possible. Once the required preparation is completed, the certificate of completion is to be delivered to the Parish Office.

### **COUNSELING SESSIONS:**

The Parish Office will set up a follow-up appointment with a Priest, Deacon or Foccus Facilitator for a Counseling Session to take place soon after completion of the pre-marriage preparation, if needed. The Priest or Deacon may ask to meet with the couple for additional counseling sessions as deemed necessary. This is also the time that he will go over the FOCCUS Test results and discuss it with the couple together.



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### **PLANNING THE LITURGY:**

The Priest or Deacon will guide the couple and assist in planning a ceremony that is liturgically appropriate.

**Readings** – We will provide a selection of readings that are appropriate for the marriage rite. **Music** - The selected music must be liturgically appropriate. The couple is to contact our Music Coordinator to discuss the Music. All choirs set their own fees. If the couple chooses to contract musicians other than the ones recommended by the parish, they must make sure that the musicians follow all liturgical guidelines. In this case, there will be an additional set-up fee of \$75; an Outside User Agreement must be on file at least 30 days prior to the wedding date. **Contact our Parish Office to discuss music options: (562) 424-8595.**

**Photographers and Videographers** – Only one official photographer and one videographer are allowed in the ceremony. During the ceremony, the photographer/ videographer must remain outside the Sanctuary area, and they may not move around or cross it. No video lighting is permitted. If posed group pictures are to be taken inside the Church, the secretary shall be informed. The session may not last more than 15 minutes immediately following the ceremony in consideration of other scheduled events. The front of the Church and our statue of Mary out front is also available for pictures. The couple is responsible to relay this policy to their photographer/videographer.

**Parish Photographer** – St. Barnabas has our own Parish Photographer. If you wish to use our Photographer, **contact Sam Christi at 562-521-4040** or email him for rates: [samanth.christi@gmail.com](mailto:samanth.christi@gmail.com). You can also visit his website at: [www.samanthchristi.wixsite.com/prophotography](http://www.samanthchristi.wixsite.com/prophotography)

**Flowers** – The couple is to consult their own florist regarding the planned flower arrangements. Flowers can be left in the Church following the wedding for use in the Sunday liturgies and celebrations, if you'd like. It reminds our Parish to pray for the couple all week long. The florist may set up one half hour before the ceremony. The couple is responsible to ensure that all decorations including flowers, trash and debris are cleaned up immediately after the ceremony. Decorations may only be tied or clipped. Use of tape, hot glue and staples is prohibited. Candles may not be used in the floral decorations. Rice, confetti, bird seeds or other similar items are not to be dispersed inside or outside the Church property. Likewise, flower petals are not to be dropped by the flower girls inside or outside the church. There are 30 rows of pews on each side of the middle isle of the Church. For safety reasons, aisle runners are not allowed and space between the pews cannot be obstructed. Our Altar will always have basic flower arrangements from our daily Masses.

### **OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE:**

The couple must obtain a marriage license from the county courthouse and forward it to the office one month before the wedding date. A marriage license is valid for 90 days from the date issued. **DO NOT** OBTAIN A CONFIDENTIAL marriage license. You need to request for a PUBLIC LICENSE so your witnesses can sign the license on the day of the wedding as well.

L.A. County Registrar: 12400 E. Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650 ; (562) 462-2137

City of Los Angeles: (213) 462-2137 ; <https://lavote.net/home/county-clerk/marriage-licenses-ceremonies/apply-for-a-marriage-license/apply>

Orange County (714) 834-2248 or (714) 834-2500 ; <https://www.ocrecorder.com/services/marriage-services>



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### **MEETING WITH THE CELEBRANT:**

The Parish Office will schedule a final meeting with the Priest or Deacon assigned to preside in the marriage ceremony two weeks before the wedding date. The presider will go over the liturgy and will answer any questions for the couple as the final preparation for the marriage ceremony.

### **WEDDING REHEARSAL:**

It is important that all persons who will participate in the marriage ceremony be present for the scheduled rehearsal. Only the persons who attend the rehearsal will be able to be part of the marriage ceremony. It is the responsibility for the Bride and Groom to explain this policy to their guests and to make the necessary arrangements. Please **contact Deb Ryan: 562-209-2458** or email at: [dryandesign@yahoo.com](mailto:dryandesign@yahoo.com) to book your Wedding Rehearsal.

*\*Please don't forget to complete and provide the "Together For Life" Program Guide to Deb at the rehearsal. Give a copy to the Parish Office prior to the rehearsal.*

*We want your marriage to be very special for you, your families and friends. Your marriage is a Sacrament and therefore has important spiritual dimension. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and EVERY first Friday of the month from 7:15am to 7:50am. Remember, you are not preparing for a wedding day, but for a lifetime together. Time spent preparing for that lifetime is never wasted.*