

Wedding Policy

**St. Boniface Church ♦ 133 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco CA · 94102
(415) 863-0111 ♦ FAX: (415) 863-7602**

**The office hours are: Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. We are closed
for Lunch at 12:00 Noon. Saturday from 9:00am to 2:00pm**

Dear Couples,

Congratulations upon your desire to initiate your wedding preparation in the Catholic faith. I know it is an important time for you and your family to celebrate the sacrament of Matrimony! Our parish community of Saint Boniface joyfully joins you at this time of celebration and continues to support you in prayer during your preparation for your wedding. We hope you find these guidelines helpful to begin the process of preparation. Don't hesitate to contact our parish offices if you have any concerns or questions.

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Jorge Hernandez, OFM
Pastor

Wedding Guidelines and Fees

PART ONE General Information

Your wedding at Saint Boniface is a joyous occasion, and we want to do all in our power to prepare you for your life together. If you are marrying a Catholic, we want to ensure your participation in all the spiritual benefits that we can offer in the wedding ceremony. If you are marrying a non-Catholic, we want you both to understand and feel comfortable with the reasoning, the process and the manner of celebrating a wedding at St. Boniface.

WEDDING DATES AND TIMES:

Weddings are scheduled according to availability on Saturdays only. The time frame is between 1:00 to 3:30 pm. We do not perform weddings on Sundays or during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Times are established to avoid interference with regular liturgical activities. Please be in communication with your priest and the parish office to ascertain that the calendar is cleared. Additionally, there are a few special weekend events and celebrations held throughout the year, which might preempt weddings.

YOUR FIRST STEPS TOWARDS ARRANGING A WEDDING:

1. Contact our Pastor: Fr. Jorge Hernandez, ofm (415) 863-0111 Ext. 106 or via e-mail to: info@saintbonifacesf.org, at least 6-9 months in advance of your proposed date.

2. Schedule Your Wedding: The parish office IS NOT authorized to schedule any weddings without the express personal consent of our parish priest. Please call the office directly to make your first appointment with the parish priest as a couple.

FEES: All fees must be paid in full no later than two months in advance of the wedding date. If fees are not paid, as stated, you may run the risk of having your wedding cancelled. We request a \$50.00 non-refundable administrative deposit paid at the time of scheduling your wedding. You could either pay cash or check (Make Checks payable to St. Boniface Church). The wedding fee is \$350

In addition to the wedding fee, there is a \$200.00 fee to our parish priest for the hours of assistance that he will provide in preparation for your marriage and wedding ceremony. There is also a security fee of \$150.00

3. The primary requirement for a Catholic wedding is that EITHER ONE or BOTH the bride and/or groom is a baptized Catholic. At the first meeting with the priest, the bride and groom are asked to provide the Baptismal Certificate(s) which have been obtained from and updated by the Parish where each was originally baptized. Baptismal Certificates are "updated" with notations of any recorded sacraments performed since baptism. This basic eligibility requirement must be met for a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church, and having the updated Baptismal Certificate(s) serves to establish that eligibility at the initial appointment with a priest. If you have any difficulty obtaining these records, please discuss it with your priest.

4. Classes for the Engaged:

The usual informational/instructional preparation program required for all couples will be discussed with the priest on your first appointment.

If this is a second marriage (through the civil law only) for one or both parties you must also attend to The Awareness and Preparation for Remarriage. For those previously married in the civil law, it is necessary to provide proof of nullity of their previous marriage. No wedding can be performed without the finalization of a previous marriage.

Applications and information for these classes are provided by the priest, and signed only by the priest.

PART TWO: Wedding Ceremony Policy and Practices

We want your wedding ceremony to be a joyful and meaningful experience, full of God's special graces and blessings. Our policy has been developed over many years and eliminates "spur of the moment" ideas or actions, which are not conducive to good liturgy.

REHEARSAL: The ceremony actually begins with the rehearsal when the wedding party comes together not only to learn the proper sequence of events, but also to understand the importance of each individual's part in the celebration. Everyone should BE ON TIME to the rehearsal, as well as listen attentively to the purpose and meaning of actions and prayers. Often there are other wedding party rehearsals on the same evening. Beginning on time is imperative for EVERYONE'S schedule, so we strongly encourage you to stress to your entire party a healthy respect for the time designated for your rehearsal.

To avoid forgetting anything on the wedding day, remember to bring to the rehearsal: (1) **Marriage License; (2) Rings; (3) Readings; (4) Vows; (5) Intentions.

READINGS: Chosen by the couple, and can be read by the couple or others in the wedding party, or by other friends. Whoever reads should be present at the rehearsal [to practice on the microphone if needed].

VOWS: This is the most solemn moment in the wedding ritual. The couple publicly professes their dependence upon God, and their love and commitment to one another for the rest of their lives. The elements for vows contain a full and deliberate expression of the marital covenant, without reservations, conditions, hesitations or restrictions. Vows represent a complete awareness of the free and deliberate giving of self for the rest of one's natural life.

In this public profession of faith in and love of one another and the free giving of oneself, the couple brings Christ's Holy Presence to this gathering in the sacramental bond of marriage.

INTENTIONS: The couple may also compose their own intentions for the liturgy. They may write the prayer intentions to be delivered from the Ambo (pulpit) by himself or herself or by a person of their choosing. This is a wonderful opportunity for the couple to thank God for their parents and friends, and to ask God for His personal presence in their lives. [Optional]

Note: Where to obtain a marriage license?

Marriage licenses are issued by the San Francisco County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk's office in San Francisco City Hall. Please see your yellow pages or visit the San Francisco City Hall web page for information on marriage licenses.

PART THREE: Important Suggestions:

At the wedding liturgy, music must fit the context of faith and the dignity of the occasion. A look at the Scripture, prayers and other texts from the liturgy will provide ideas about the kind of lyrics to use during the wedding liturgies. They are expansive, filled with joy, gratitude, and hope for the blessings of life. Lyrics for any music used at the wedding liturgy must be in harmony with this spirit of worship.

MUSIC: Couples should schedule a meeting with the Parish Music Director at least four months prior to the celebration to discuss song selections. It is recommended that the initial contact occur shortly after the wedding has been calendared. Weekends tend to be a busy time for musicians throughout the year. Setting-up your music early will allow you to have more options. The fee for our parish musician should be worked out between the Choir director and the Couple.

The Parish Music Director is the primary musician at all liturgical celebrations. In the event that the Music Director cannot personally play for your ceremony, it will be your responsibility to hire musicians in his/her place. If the couple wishes to have musicians from outside the parish, then approval MUST be obtained from the priest four months before the wedding; otherwise, there is a risk that your musicians will not be able to participate resulting in no music for your ceremony.

PICTURES: Your photographer is free to take pictures during the ceremony. Thus, you can plan to have sufficient photographs taken. Because there are certain restrictions in certain areas, please have your photographer be in contact with the priest for more information.

May God's Blessings and Presence be with you all throughout your married life together.