

What should you know

About your preparation wedding???

### Who may marry in our parish church?

The answer to this question is governed, in part, by the Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church. Generally speaking:

- \* Members of our parish may celebrate their weddings at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church;
- \* Roman Catholics who live within the boundaries of the parish, but who have no formal relationship with the parish community, may speak to someone on the parish staff about establishing a relationship with the parish - about celebrating a wedding in the future;
- \* Former members of the parish or visitors seeking a wedding at our church need to receive written permission from their pastor in their home parish in order to marry at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.



### Pre-marriage programs approved by the Diocese of Santa Rosa

*PREPARE - a pre-marriage inventory administered by EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED - hosted by Catholic married couples.*

#### **ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

*A weekend experience which frees the couple to concentrate on their new hopes, doubts, and dreams for their future marriage in the light of the Christian faith.*

**PRE-CANA (\$150)** - an intensive, one-day program administered by the Diocese of Sacramento (916) 733-0100

**FOCCUS** profile and two counseling sessions (\$300.00) - call Cathy Hughes, MFCC: (707) 252-4973 If you are members of a different Diocese/ Archdiocese the preparation programs may vary. Or [www.catholicmarriageprep.com](http://www.catholicmarriageprep.com)

Please be certain you are free to marry in the Catholic Church prior to enrolling in any pre-marriage program. Note: availability and cost can vary. Please contact our parish office for more information.

**Church: 981 Napa Street**  
**Office: 960 Caymus Street**  
**Napa, CA 94559**  
**Phone (707) 226-9379**  
**Fax (707) 254-9262**



## St. John the Baptist Catholic Church



**Guidelines For Couples**  
**Preparing to Marry**

## PRE-MARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

The priest/deacon will discuss the preparation process with you in detail. This process includes:

1. Personal affidavit, stating your identity, your status in the Church, and your freedom to marry. (If either party has been married before—whether in the Church or not—extra time may be needed to determine freedom to marry.)
2. Witness testimony of a close relative or friend, confirming the information in your personal affidavit.
3. You will need to produce the following documents:
  - a. Baptismal certificate no more than six months old;
  - b. Copies of your First Communion and Confirmation certificates, or the dates and places where these sacraments were received;
  - c. If one of the parties is a widow or widower, a death certificate of the late spouse
  - d. If one of the parties has received an annulment, a copy of the declaration of nullity;
  - e. If one of the parties is a non-Catholic, a baptismal certificate for that party, if available;
  - f. Marriage License: a valid California marriage license issued by any county in the state. The license should be given to the priest/deacon at the rehearsal. This along is your civil and legal marriage

document.

4. In an interfaith marriage, promises must be signed by the Catholic party regarding the baptism and raising of children in the practice of the Catholic faith.
5. An open and frank discussion of your readiness for marriage as a Sacrament, and your participation in the marriage preparation program.
6. A Marriage Preparation program approved by the Diocese of Santa Rosa, or by the Diocese/Archdiocese where the couple resides is to be completed at least two months before the tentative wedding date (*see center panel other side*). The priest/deacon will also discuss with you the issues raised in the preparation process and your readiness to celebrate the



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Sacrament of Matrimony, with special focus on personal prayer, on our faith, and on Christ as the center of your married life together.

**PLEASE NOTE: Diocesan policy requires steps 1-5 are to be completed prior to the priest/deacon setting a firm date for the wedding. Please do not make any firm commitments (e.g., to printers, photographers, etc.) until a firm date has been set with the priest/deacon.**

The fee for the church is \$600 for parishioners, \$700 for non-parishioners and 1,000 for destination weddings. Should the wedding be canceled within 3 months of the reserved date, you will forfeit 25% for the processing fee.

We want your wedding to be as special as possible. We invite your questions, comments and we pledge an open hearing for your requests. In return, we ask your openness to the ritual of the church and the customs of our parish.

*“Beloved, if we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us” (1 John 4:12)*

