



*St. Viator Catholic Community*

*Marriage  
Preparation  
Handbook*

## Christian Marriage

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Each wedding at St. Viator Church is a very personal event. A wedding is one of those special moments in life when a couple gathers with all the people they cherish and proclaim what it means to be in love. Your wedding is not just a legal ceremony, but a sacrament and, therefore, a significant moment on your journey of faith. Thus, your wedding ceremony is much more than the exchange of marriage vows and the giving of rings. It is a sacrament filled with music, symbols, family, friends, and the rich tradition of our Catholic faith.

The St. Viator staff looks forward to assisting you during this special time. We are here to help you as you prepare for this wonderful experience — celebrating your love for one another in marriage and God’s presence in your lives.

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## The Marriage Preparation Program

The Diocese of Las Vegas requires couples to contact their parish at least six months prior to the marriage and participate in the following: Introductory Session, Pre-Marital Inventory, and One Day Seminar or Engaged Encounter.



### Introductory Session

During the Introductory session, the marriage preparation coordinator discusses the requirements with the couple and assists in selecting the wedding date.

### Pre-Marital Inventory

This inventory (questionnaire) helps the couple examine their feelings and expectations concerning marriage. The priest working with the couple may determine there is a question regarding the couple's readiness for marriage and may refer the couple to a professional counselor for evaluation and assessment. *Special Consideration:* Persons under the age of 19 will be asked to receive individual evaluative counseling, in accordance with the policy of the Diocese of Las Vegas.

### One-Day Engagement Experience

Group seminars are held three times a year for engaged couples, on Saturday, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at St. Viator. This includes the 4:00 PM Mass where the couples receive a blessing. Refer to the registration form for the One-Day Engagement Experience which includes upcoming dates.

## Documents

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### **Baptismal Certificate**

Catholics must present a newly re-issued baptismal certificate, with notations, issued no later than six months before the wedding. The certificate must be an original copy from the parish where the Catholic was baptized.

Non-Catholics who are baptized need to obtain a copy of their baptismal certificate. It need not be a recent copy.

### **Legal Birth Certificates**

A copy of a legal birth certificate is required as a form of identification for the wedding file.

### **Affidavits, Dispensations, and Declaration of Nullity**

The Diocese of Las Vegas requires completed Freedom to Marry Affidavits for both the bride and groom.

If there is a need for a Lack of Form or Declaration of Nullity, for a previous marriage, the paperwork process will commence immediately. If Declaration of Nullity is needed, be aware that the process takes up to a year or more to complete. In that event, the marriage would be placed on hold until the Declaration of Nullity is granted.

### **Civil License**

A Civil License is obtained from the Clark County Clerk's Office. It must be given to the Marriage Preparation Coordinator at least 30 days prior to the wedding. The priest cannot legally perform the wedding if he does not have the Civil License.

## Ceremony

### Liturgy

The bride and groom administer to each other the Sacrament of Matrimony. The priest or deacon is the witness of the Church to this sacramental action.



The couple have the opportunity to select prayers, scripture readings, blessings and cultural practices which best express their desire for God in their lives and the support of the community.

### Time

Weddings are scheduled on Friday at 5 PM and on Saturday at 11:30 AM or 1:30 PM. You have 2-1/2 hour reserved use of the church (one hour prior to your start time and 90 minutes from the scheduled commencement of your wedding for the ceremony and photos).

### Date

Weddings are not scheduled on Saturday evenings, the weekends of Palm Sunday and Easter, and near the weekends of Christmas and New Years.

### Rehearsal

The priest will schedule a rehearsal time for the wedding ceremony, usually it is the night before the ceremony. *Please* be on time since there may be other rehearsals or even a wedding scheduled for the same evening. The rehearsal usually takes about thirty minutes. Everyone involved in the ceremony should attend.

## Music

The Music Director at St. Viator is delighted that you have chosen our parish for your wedding. We are dedicated to providing liturgical wedding music which is beautiful, appropriate and spiritually uplifting. Our parish Music Director is happy to work with you as you plan the selections for your wedding.

Contact Cheri Scott-Ollila, the parish Music Director (702.699.9859) [pianogr158@aol.com](mailto:pianogr158@aol.com), *at least four months before* your wedding date to discuss all aspects of the music for your ceremony.

Only music of a liturgical or sacred nature is allowed within the liturgy at St. Viator Parish. Mechanically produced music (CD's or tapes) and "popular music" are not appropriate for liturgical use, and are not allowed. All music must be approved by the Music Director.



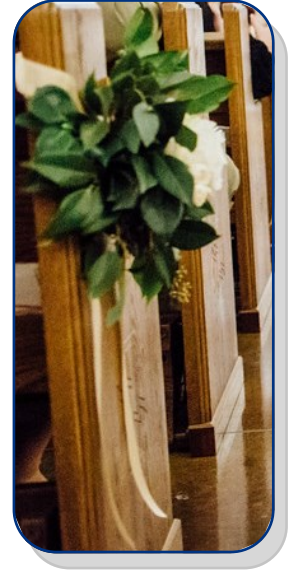


## Décor and More

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### **Flowers**

Ask your florist for delivery to be made no more than 40-50 minutes before the wedding. This ensures your flowers will be fresh and a member of the wedding party will be present to confirm the order. Have your florist arrange the flowers and other décor they are providing for your wedding and include a note to designate the appropriate item for each member of the wedding party. Flowers are not permitted on the altar nor should they hamper people's movement.



### **Attire**

Modest and respectful attire which is appropriate for our worship space is required. Dresses of women in the wedding party must have a modest cut. The Marriage Coordinator will review appropriate attire during your introductory session

### **Decorations**

Please do not use décor affixed with a tacky substance or items which hinder or obstruct the movement up/down the aisle. If you have decorations in mind please have them approved by the Marriage Coordinator before purchasing any items.

### **Limousines**

Chauffeurs park on the black top area of the parking lot only.

### **Rice, etc.**

For liability reasons, rice, balloons, bubbles, birdseed, streamers, flower petals or other materials that require cleaning up may not be used in conjunction with the service either inside or outside the church. Please inform your guests that none of these may be thrown in or around the church plaza.



## Instructions for Photographers & Videographers

Your wedding is a sacred event. We seek your cooperation to ensure such an atmosphere during the ceremony. Please be sure to Inform your photographer of our parish's wedding policy.

- Video equipment inside the sanctuary must be stationary, including all video cameras in either the right or left aisle of the church. No equipment is allowed in the center aisle.
- The use of flash for photography is not permitted. Also, no additional equipment to enhance either the lighting of the sanctuary or the recording of sound is permitted.

The photography/video session following the wedding must finish 90 minutes after the scheduled *beginning* of the wedding. *No exceptions can or will be made.*



## Additional Items

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### **Unity Candles & Ethnic Customs**

Unity candles are permitted. The couple provides the candle and our parish has several stands to choose from for your use. Inform the priest officiating at your wedding if you would like to include this symbol.

Please consult with the priest performing the wedding if there are some ethnic customs you wish included in the ceremony.

### **Visiting Priest**

A couple may request a relative or a friend to perform the wedding. We welcome the priest. However, please be advised if the priest is not a resident of Nevada, he will have to apply for a temporary license.

### **Preparation for a Wedding in A Different Diocese**

Our Marriage Coordinator can assist couples with completing the necessary preparation and documentation for a wedding in another Diocese. This includes collecting the necessary documentation and completing the survey and Engagement Experience class.

### **Miscellaneous**

Remind family and friends of the sacred nature of this event and ask them to refrain from alcoholic beverages while preparing for your wedding. Please give your personal belongings to family members for safe keeping. We cannot be responsible for items left unattended. Ask a member of your wedding party to collect the marriage certificate and unity candle or other important items. Lastly, please have friends and family assist with removing the flowers and decorations.

# Notes

# Notes



I Corinthians 12:31 – 13:8

Brothers and sisters.  
Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.  
But I shall show you a still more excellent way.  
If I speak in human and angelic tongues,  
but do not have love,  
I am only a resounding gong  
or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all  
mysteries and all knowledge,  
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,  
but do not have love,  
I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,  
and hand my body over so that I may boast,  
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous,  
it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests,  
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

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