



## HOLY SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

### GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

“I will espouse you to me forever:  
I will espouse you in right and in  
justice, in love and in mercy; I will  
espouse you in fidelity, and you  
shall know the LORD.”

Hosea 2: 21-22



PASTOR:  
REV. MICHAEL VAUGHAN

PAROCHIAL VICAR:  
REV. JULIUS KIOGORA KABURU

WEDDING COORDINATORS  
MENCHIE CABRERA  
ANNE MULDAVIN  
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9539 RACQUET COURT  
ELK GROVE, CA 95758  
916-684-5722  
[www.GSCCEG.ORG](http://www.GSCCEG.ORG)

There is a Wedding at Cana ...

With or Without Mass?

The full grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony is present on both wedding celebrations with Mass or a ceremony only (with Mass takes 1 hour & without Mass takes 30 minutes.)

Times Offered:

Weddings are celebrated on Fridays at 5:00 PM,  
Saturdays at 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM in the church.  
No weddings are celebrated during Lent.

# THE *Marriage* PREPARATION PROCESS

## *Six-Month Marriage Preparation Period*

To ensure that the engaged couple have adequate time to prepare, contact must be made at least 6 months in advance of the couple's wedding date.

### *Requirements*

-Initial contact with our Parish Office (by phone) followed by scheduling an initial interview with the Priest or Parish Advocate to begin the marriage preparation process.

-Documents needed:

- Pre-Marriage Testimony (Form A)
- Pre-Nuptial Witness Testimony (Form B)
- Baptismal Certificates (Catholic party must submit a Baptismal Certificate issued within the six-month period prior to your wedding and include notations.
- If either party has been previously married, a marriage record, a death certificate or an ecclesiastical declaration of nullity must be submitted. (*Dispensation from any marriage impediment must be obtained.*)
- Dispensation (If needed on behalf of the Catholic party)
- Interview by the presiding priest for spiritual guidance and confession.
- Outside priests are welcome at Good Shepherd, but must first be approved by the Pastor. Visiting priests from outside the diocese must provide a *Letter of Good Standing*.
- Marriage License: You are required to obtain the marriage license from the county. Marriage licenses are valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. If you do not get married within 90 days, the license will no longer be valid. Good Shepherd Parish Office will return the original marriage license to the County Recorder within 10 days of the date of the

ceremony. You will NOT receive a copy of your marriage license after you have been married unless you request and pay for a certified copy from the County Recorder.

## *Marriage Prep Classes*

- Attend a Marriage Preparation Class
  - Online on-demand Pre-Cana Course called CatholicMarriagePrep.com
  - or you can do a weekend retreat called Catholic Engaged Encounter.
- Attend a Natural Family Planning Class (overview lesson)
- Attend a Premarital Assessment or Inventory (FOCCUS, Prepare/Enrich, PMI, or Fully Engaged)

## *Catholic Wedding Etiquette*

- **Attire** - Choosing appropriate attire for Mass shows that we not only respect the importance of the Mass, but we respect our fellow worshippers as well, by dressing modestly and avoiding any type of clothing that they may find distracting.
- **Cell Phone and other Electronic Devices** - If at all possible, these modern communication gadgets should be left at home or turned off during Mass. A ringing or beeping detracts from the sanctity of the Mass. Except for true emergencies, any calls should be able to wait at least until the conclusion of Mass.
- **Arrival and Entrance Protocol** - Our arrival time and our first gestures upon arrival should reflect our attitude toward the Mass. Upon entering a Catholic church, three gestures immediately distinguish Catholic

worshippers: dipping our finger into the holy water, making the sign of the cross, and genuflecting. Non – Catholics entering a Catholic church need not attempt to imitate these gestures, but may instead just proceed quietly to a pew.

- **To Receive Holy Communion or Not to Receive** - If you are Catholic in the state of grace, you may receive Holy Communion. If you are **NOT** Catholic, children who have **NOT** yet received their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion, and those who for spiritual reasons choose to **REFRAIN** from receiving the Precious Body of Christ, may choose to receive a “blessing” instead by crossing your arms as you approach the priest and the he will pray over you.
- **General Decorum** - Quietness, dignity and attentiveness are key ingredients to appropriately reverent behavior. In the Holy presence of God the gifts of reverence and silence are most valued.
- **No food or drink** to be taken inside the church.
- **No Smoking** in the church or church parking area.
- **Wedding rehearsals** are limited to one hour and participants are encouraged to be prompt in order to utilize their full hour use of the church.
- **Church decorations** - are limited to a minimum.

## *Fees for Wedding:*

- The wedding fee of \$800.00 includes document preparation, wedding rehearsal and use of the Church facilities (due one month before date of wedding.)
- \$10.00: For each of two altar servers assisting the priest during the mass or ceremony.
- \$200.00: Customary love offering to the presiding priest.

## *Good Shepherd Music Contact:*

John and Mary Palmer - 916- 691-4709  
Adriel Cruz - 916-690-4021 or 916-686-9285