

A Wedding is for a Day... Marriage is for a Lifetime...

*St. Cornelius Church, 5500 E. Wardlow Road, Long Beach, CA 90808
562.421.8966*

St. Cornelius Church Wedding Preparation Guideline

I. Required Documents

- a) Recent copy (less than six months old) of Baptismal certificate. Contact your church of baptism to obtain a new copy.
- b) Letter of freedom signed by parents or two other competent witnesses stating that you have never been married.
- c) First communion & Confirmation certificates
- d) Certificate of attendance at a Marriage Preparation Course.
- e) Valid civil marriage license issued by Los Angeles County. A marriage license may be obtained at: 12400 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk, CA 90650 562.462.2137

II. Pre-Marriage Instructions

- a) Interviews with parish priest.
- b) Attend a Marriage Preparation Session

III. The Wedding Ceremony

- a) Weddings are celebrated on Saturday. No weddings are scheduled after 2:30pm due to scheduled confessions and the Saturday Mass. Sunday weddings and weekday weddings may be scheduled if the Church and the priest are available.
- b) The parish wedding coordinator will assist you with all the paperwork, rehearsal and be present on your wedding day. You may reach her at the rectory office at 562.421.8966. Please call as soon as your wedding date is confirmed by the church.
- c) Rehearsals are held the Thursday before the wedding. Please meet at the church at 5:45pm and the rehearsals will begin at 6:00pm. Please be prompt as the church may be scheduled for other activities. All couples must use this service.
- d) Music arrangements must be discussed with the wedding coordinator. She can give you the information on available organists and soloists.
- e) Altar Servers will be scheduled by the wedding coordinator.
- f) Photographs may be taken during the ceremony, but the photographer should not be a distraction during the ceremony. Following the ceremony, pictures must be limited to 15 minutes.

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- g) Church decorations are to be discussed with the wedding coordinator. She can inform you of the guidelines and procedure regarding church decorations. We will supply the unity candle.
- h) Florists are welcome at St. Cornelius Church. Florists cannot use pins, tape or tacks to attach decorations to the pews. Pew clips must be used. Baskets or stands must be supplied through the florist.
- i) Two weddings may be scheduled on any Saturday. For this reason, and the interest of safety, the use of rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals or runners is NOT permitted.

IV. Offerings and Fees

- a) The customary offering to St. Cornelius Church is \$300. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve the church. The balance of the church fee is due one month prior to the wedding date.
- b) Wedding coordinator fee \$150.
- c) A gift to the priest celebrating your wedding is appreciated. Please make separate checks for all concerned. All money should be turned in to the wedding coordinator at least one week prior to the wedding.

Final Remarks

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 4:00pm to 4:45pm and Thursday and Friday evening at 5:30pm. Remember, you are not preparing for a wedding day, but for a lifetime together. Time spent preparing for that lifetime is never wasted.

*Love is patient, love is kind.
If is not jealous. It is not pompous,
It is not inflated, it is not rude,
It does not seek its own interests,
It is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
If does not rejoice over wrongdoing
But rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
Hopes all things, endures all things.
Lover never fails.*