

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Marriage Requirements, Fees and Ceremony Guidelines

2015 - 2016

Eligibility

The bride and groom must meet with the Priest of the parish who is responsible for weddings. He will explain in person the requirements for a sacramental marriage.

Preparation

The couple must register for and attend **all** Marriage Preparation classes. Both the bride and groom must attend all classes.

Behavior

Engaged couples, their guests, representatives and families must behave in a manner befitting the celebration of a Wedding Mass or Communion Service. The Wedding is a liturgical celebration that will be celebrated at a church. This means that the bride and groom, their guests, representatives and families must follow all church policies and treat all parish staff and volunteers with courtesy and respect.

Parishioners & Non-Parishioners

\$700 (Flat Fee) Parishioners and Non-Parishioners
Need \$250 minimum payment to book the date.

These fees are below parish cost, and are used to offset the cost associated with the following:

- Marriage Preparation Class and Preparation Program
- Use of the church or chapel (utilities, light maintenance)
- Church Monitor
- Facility Preparation (Mass prep, Church Supplies)
- Administrative functions

If the couple or their family voluntarily wishes to contribute more than the fees listed above, they may do so by making a general donation to the church, by making a donation towards our food pantry or other social services programs or the visit the parish wish list which can be found at www.olgaustin.org. All contributions are voluntary and are tax deductible.

The Wedding fee must be paid off 30 days before the ceremony date.

If you wish to cancel or reschedule, please do it no later than 30 days before the Wedding Ceremony. Failure to do so will cause a forfeiture of your down payment

Ceremony Guidelines

Mass and Rehearsal Times

- Weddings are held on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. Out of courtesy to our Priest and Coordinator; we ask to please be on time, if possible 30min early. The ceremony will start right on time. _____ (initials)
- Rehearsals are scheduled on the preceding Thursday at 5:00pm, 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. The rehearsal is scheduled for one (1) hour and it is your responsibility to ensure that all the attendants arrive on time. There are weekends when two ceremonies are scheduled; therefore, everyone must be punctual. We ask that everyone conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful manner while in the church (see behavior guideline above).

Absolutely, no food, drinks, tobacco or alcohol are allowed in the Church. Please share this information with your entire Wedding party.

Attire

Weddings take place at Mass or a Communion Service and happen in the church. Brides and their attendants must dress modestly. **For this reason, sleeveless or strapless dresses are strongly discouraged.** This includes all attendants of the court. Dresses must be at least knee length. Attendants who arrive in dresses that are sleeveless or strapless **must** wear a shawl or other suitable cover-up. No visible cleavage, bare midriffs, short length, high slits, skin-light, low cut necklines, or backless gowns are allowed. This is not appropriate for the presence of Christ or a sacred celebration. If necessary, you may need to purchase one dress that is appropriate for the church and another for the party afterward. If you have questions as to whether or not a dress is appropriate, contact the parish Wedding Monitor **before** purchasing it.

Church Decorations

Throughout the year, the church is decorated to reflect the various liturgical seasons with banners, altar cloths, and backdrops. **You are restricted from moving or removing any items from the sanctuary area.** Listed below are guidelines to follow:

- The church will provide a satin covered kneeler and chair at the altar for the bride and groom.
- Bows, ribbons and floral arrangements may be used to adorn the pews in the center aisle. **Do not use wire tape pushpins, thumbtacks or anything that would damage the pew to attach the bows.** Pew clips or ribbons are acceptable and are sold at party supply stores. We have hundreds of weddings here at OLG and continual exposure to unsuitable decor will damage the church and furnishings.
- Please remove the pew decorations before leaving the church. We do not guarantee that they will be found later.
- You may arrive at the church one (1) hour prior to the ceremony to decorate. Please give the Monitor advance notice.
- Rice, flowers, potpourri and birdseed are prohibited in and outside of the church for safety and liability reasons. Slipping on these items could cause serious injury to you, your Wedding party and guests.
- Dove and Butterfly releases are only allowed outside the church.
- Candelabra and arches are not allowed in the church.
- There are two (2) options available for church flowers:

1. Use the flowers that are prepared for weekend Masses. This allows you to submit your color schemes and suggest some flower selections. If **two** ceremonies are scheduled on that day, the floral arrangements will be neutral enough to compliment each ceremony. All floral arrangements must remain in the church for the weekend Masses.
2. Purchase flowers of your choice to go with the church flowers. **You may not move the floral arrangements that are prepared for the weekend Masses.** You must take any additional arrangements you bring with you immediately after Mass. You may bring in two extra arrangements for the high altar; one large arrangement to put in front of the altar table; small arrangements to put on the tables by the entrances of the church. If you would like to leave your flowers in the church, please make prior arrangements with the Parish Wedding Monitor.

Music

It is your responsibility to contract your Wedding music. **Outside instrumentalists, vocalists and Mariachi groups are allowed with approval from the parish staff.** If the church sound system, piano or organ are to be used by an outside source, please inform the parish office. **Only liturgically appropriate music is permitted at the ceremony.** Please review music with the Director of Religious Education in the parish office prior to finalizing music arrangements.

Photography Guidelines

- Only two photographers and two videographers are allowed. It is extremely important that they remain respectful of the sacred space. We recommend that they attend the rehearsal for logistical purposes.
- The videographer must remain stationary in the choir loft or at either side aisle but NOT past the front columns during the ceremony.
- The photographer may be mobile in the church during the ceremony but limited to the choir loft, either side aisle (behind the front column) or the Cry Room as long as they are not a distraction. Most importantly, they must NOT enter the altar area at any time during the ceremony. The use of flashbulbs or any other bright lights are prohibited during the ceremony.
- Please advise your guests and family **not** to take photos during the ceremony. The service of your professional photographer is costly and you don't want them to interfere with his professional work.
- Thirty (30) minutes prior to or after the ceremony is allowed for taking posed photographs. We ask that you provide your photographer with a list of pre-planned photos in order to best utilize the time allotted. Please inform the Church Monitor at the rehearsal of your time choice. Also, inform the monitor of your desire to have a photo taken with the presiding priest or deacon. **Post ceremony photography may not exceed 30 minutes.**
- Only one portrait is allowed in the church. It may be displayed in the church narthex (foyer) on an easel provided by the Wedding party. **No portraits are allowed on the altar.**

Stipends

A stipend or donation is acceptable for the presiding priest or deacon. The parish does not have fixed fees established; it is your discretion. Ideally, stipends are commensurate with the size and scale of the ceremony and the amount of time that has been contributed to the event. A stipend is separate from any fee or donation paid for the use of the facility.

Wedding Reception

The parish hall is available for rental for your Wedding rehearsal dinner or reception. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 512-478-7955.

Signature of Bride

Date

Signature of Groom

Date