



The parish of St. Louise de Marillac is delighted you have chosen to be married among us. Marriage in the Catholic Church is a special and solemn vocation. It is a Sacrament that involves the two of you, God and the community. The seriousness of entering into such a Christian marriage relationship requires the utmost diligence and willingness to be prepared in the best possible way.

Your wedding should be a happy and meaningful celebration. We hope these guidelines will help you prepare for a lifelong commitment of love. A wedding day is merely the beginning of the Christian Sacrament of marriage and a life of married joy.

Father Robert Fulton
Pastor, St. Louise de Marillac

St. Louise de Marillac Church



**1720 E. Covina Blvd
Covina, CA 91724
(626) 915-7873**

For more information or to schedule a wedding, please contact the Parish office.

Marriage Guidelines



*St. Louise de Marillac
Catholic Church*

Preparing for your Wedding Day

Church Requirements:

At least one party to the marriage must be a baptized Catholic.

St. Louise de Marillac requires **six months** notice before service can be performed.

Preparation for marriage:

A formal preparation program is required for all couples.

This typically involves an intake process including discussing the paperwork that is required, a personality/couple assessment (called FOCCUS), and an engaged retreat or a con-validation workshop. When you call to schedule a wedding, you will first meet with a Deacon or Priest to begin the process.

An “Angel Couple” will be assigned to you to help you in preparing for your wedding ceremony one month before your wedding date. You will receive a pamphlet describing the entire process and miscellaneous information not covered by this brochure.

Documentation:

You will be asked to provide the following documents before your marriage can be celebrated:

- Baptismal Certificate (not more than 6 months old) with all notations included.
- Letters of Freedom to Marry (affidavits by family or friends close to you, witnessed by a priest, deacon or assigned parish minister) 6 months before wedding.
- Valid California Marriage License
- Annulment papers if previously married
- If either of you is non-Catholic, permission for mixed marriage or dispensation for disparity of worship form is necessary.

Concerning prior marriages:

If one or both of you have had a previous marriage, please call the Annulment Counselor in the Parish Office at extension 203, to discuss whether or not you can apply for an annulment of these previous marriages.

Church Donations and Payments

Altar Servers: It is required that there be 2 altar servers to serve at your mass. You may provide your own or St. Louise will provide them for you.

It is customary to make a donation to the Church to help cover expenses the Church incurs for weddings (paperwork, FOCCUS, utilities, clean-up, etc.) The usual donation for an active parishioner who has been registered for more than 12 months is **\$600.00**. It is also customary to give a stipend to the presiding priest or deacon, but you may use your own discretion in this matter. Once your Wedding date has been scheduled a **\$300.00** non refundable deposit is to be made immediately to hold your date.

All fees should be paid in the Parish Center no later than one month prior to your wedding date.

If there is a financial hardship, please discuss this with the Parish Wedding Coordinator in the Parish Office.

Some Odds and Ends:

Church Decorations:

The church is normally decorated to reflect the current Church Season. This is especially true during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

You may add flowers if you like but in keeping with the liturgical spirit of the seasons, no changes to the existing decorations are allowed.

Flower arrangements:

Flower arrangements may be brought to the church to enhance the decorations already there. It is customary for the couple to leave flowers in the church so they will provide beauty to the community assembled at Church on Sunday. *Flower petals, rice, bird seeds, confetti or bubbles are not allowed on church property because of insurance liability issues.*

Photographer & Videographer Guidelines

Your photographers and videographers are welcome if they respect the sacramental nature of the wedding ceremony. Flash photography is not allowed during the service.

Music:

St. Louise offers the service of its musicians for weddings. This is a separate contract between you and the musicians. Outside musicians may be used, however, no one may use the St. Louise sound system except our Parish musicians.

