

Common Questions asked regarding a Roman Catholic Wedding

- **Who may be married at St. Stephen?**
 1. Anyone who lives within the boundaries of St. Stephen Parish, or is known to us through religious formation, parish registration, stewardship, or any parish activity/ministry. If a couple wishing to be prepared for marriage is from another parish, they must first receive permission from their parish. Importance is always given to a couple getting married in their parish and couples are encouraged to marry in the parish community to which they belong.
- **Do I have to have all my Sacraments? (Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation)**
 2. While confirmation is highly recommended prior to marriage, it is not necessary. A Catholic may marry even without having received First Communion; Baptism alone is sufficient for the sacrament of marriage.
- **Never Married by any Faith or by a Justice of the Peace?**
 3. For couples who have never been married. All documents listed in the heading "Necessary Documents" that apply to you are needed at your first meeting with the clergy.
- **Can I marry a non-Catholic?**
 4. Yes, the Catholic must seek permission from the bishop to marry a non-Catholic. If the person is a non-Catholic Christian, this permission is called a "permission to enter into a mixed marriage. This will be discussed at the initial meeting with the clergy.
- **Convalidation - Blessing of Civil Marriages?**
 5. For couples who are having their civil marriage "validated", in the catholic church, the same preparation and liturgy guidelines apply as a non-married couple. All documents as listed in the heading "Necessary Documents" that apply to you are needed at your first meeting with the clergy.
- **What about Previous Marriages?**
 1. If you were previously married in the Catholic Church, you must first obtain an annulment through the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal 915-872-8402. This must be done before beginning preparations for marriage. Please go to the following website for annulment forms and information <https://www.elpasodiocese.org/tribunal.html> If you have the annulment, bring it to your first meeting with the clergy along with documents as listed in the heading "Necessary Documents" that apply to you are needed at your first meeting with the clergy.
 2. If either of you have a previous civil marriage you need to provide the official marriage license and official divorce decree at the initial meeting with the clergy as well as documents as listed in the heading "Necessary Documents" that apply to you are needed at your first meeting with the clergy.
- **Previous Marriage Ended Due To Spousal Death?**
 3. Please include marriage certificate and death certificate when you come to the first meeting with the clergy.

PLEASE CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

INCOMPLETE PACKETS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. IF A PACKET IS RECEIVED INCOMPLETE, IT WILL BE RETURNED. REGISTRATION WILL NOT PROCESSED AND MARRIAGE DATE WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED.

“Necessary Documents”

- Baptismal Certificate: From a Roman Catholic Church must provide evidence of his/her baptism. A recent certificate must be obtained from the church of your baptism and submitted to the clergy at time of initial meeting. The baptism certificate should be dated within 6 months of meeting with the clergy.
- Non-Catholic Baptismal Certificate: From Christian Church must provide evidence of his/her baptism. A recent certificate must be obtained from the church of your baptism and submitted to the clergy at time of initial meeting. The baptism certificate should be dated within 6 months of meeting with the clergy.
- First Communion and Confirmation: If you have completed these sacraments, when you receive your new baptismal certificate confirm these sacraments are noted on the back. If not noted, please show proof to the baptism church so they can update their records and you can present an up-to-date baptism certificate. If the Church is out of town and these sacraments are not noted on the baptism certificate, please bring your First Communion and Confirmation certificates and we will copy them.
- If one of you have not been baptized, please bring a new birth certificate (we will keep this copy). All sacraments must be dated within six months of meeting clergy.
- Civilly Married: Please bring your marriage certificate to the meeting.
- Previous marriages: Please bring all paperwork (including marriage certificates divorce decrees, annulments, death decrees, etc.).
- Annulment: Please bring the annulment paperwork with you. A seventy-five-dollar (\$75) deposit is required to hold your wedding date.