

Second Appointment

During this appointment, the Priest or Deacon will go over your Focus Study Tool and answer any questions or concerns you may have. He will also collect the following documents:

Baptismal Certificates

A "*newly issued*" copy of your Baptismal Certificate, including notations of your Confirmation and any prior Marriages, is required for those who are Catholic. Just contact the Church of your Baptism and request a certificate. This is a common request and typically there is no fee involved. For those Baptized in another Christian faith, a copy of the original Baptismal certificate is sufficient.

Letters of Freedoms

This is a sworn statement, witnessed by a Priest, Minister or Notary Public, attesting that you have never been married before, in either a Church or Civil ceremony, and that there is no known impediment to the marriage. Parents normally fill this out, or others who have known you most or all of your life may complete it. **Two witnesses are required for each party to the marriage.** [We also have specific Letters of Freedom for those who are widowed and those who have been granted a Church annulment.]

Engaged Encounter Certificate

All couples are required to attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend Retreat. At completion, you will receive a certificate which needs to be submitted to your Priest or Deacon. If you've completed it before your second appointment you can bring it, if not, please be sure it'll be completed so you can bring it for your third appointment.

At the end of your second appointment, the Priest or Deacon will remind you to work on the following areas of the wedding before the final appointment:

Contact the Wedding Coordinator

The Wedding Coordinators can be contacted up to five months prior to the wedding date. They will provide an invaluable service making sure everything runs smoothly the day of your wedding. They will schedule and run your rehearsal as well as answer any questions you may have regarding our guidelines for decorations, flowers, photography, videos, etc.

Attend a Wedding Music Workshop

The Music Director offers workshops presenting the many musical options available to you for your wedding. Each couple should contact the Music Director at least four months before their wedding to find out about upcoming workshop dates. The Music Director will assist each couple in determining musical selections, and will serve as organist, pianist, and/or vocalist for your wedding.

Review the Together for Life Booklet

This booklet goes over the most important part of the wedding, the Liturgy. Because every couple is different, we ask that you work together to discuss and complete the Liturgy Planning sheet (*containing samples of the readings, vows, prayers etc*). During your final meeting with the Priest or Deacon you will be concentrating on the Liturgy aspect of your wedding. Also, please think about who you would like to ask to assist during the Wedding Ceremony (Lectors, Gift-bearers, EM's).

Obtain a Marriage License

The County Court registers all civil documents. Therefore, any questions you have regarding the procurement of the civil license or other civil concerns should be addressed to the Court. **Licenses are valid for ninety days from the date they are issued.** The marriage license must be given to the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal. Please note that it is against the law for the ceremony to take place without a civil license. You may obtain additional information at the Los Angeles County Register-Recorder/County Clerk website:

<http://REGREC.CO.LA.CA.US/CLERK/MARRIAGE.HTM>