

Weddings

Frequently Asked Questions

How far in advance do we need to call to set a date?

According to diocesan policy the preparation for a wedding must begin no later than six months before the scheduled date. You must meet with a priest or deacon to schedule your wedding, complete the necessary preparation and plan the ceremony. No weddings are scheduled more than twelve months in advance. Call the parish office to make an appointment with a priest or deacon.

What times are available for weddings?

Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., & 2:00 p.m.

Can we have a priest or deacon from outside St. Eugene's perform our ceremony?

Yes, in most cases. However, a St. Eugene's priest must give prior approval for visiting priests or deacons before any plans are finalized. Priests and deacons from outside the Diocese of Santa Rosa must get approval from the Bishop of Santa Rosa.

Are we required to attend a Marriage Preparation program?

Diocesan policy requires all couples to complete an approved marriage preparation program which must be completed prior to your wedding date. Allow six months for this process. Check with your priest or deacon for detailed information regarding programs, dates and times.

How much does it cost to be married at St. Eugene's Cathedral?

A refundable cleaning deposit of \$100 is required at the time the wedding is scheduled. A \$400 wedding fee is due three weeks prior to the wedding date. A forfeiture fee of \$200 is applied if the wedding is cancelled within the three week period prior to the wedding date.

In addition to the church fee, it is customary to give a monetary gift to the presiding priest or deacon.

What is the seating capacity of the cathedral?

The maximum seating capacity of the church is 490. There are 25 pews on the left side and 24 pews on the right side of the church. Each pew is 16 feet long. You may place pew bows on the ends of the pews if you desire. Masking tape is the only adhesive that may be used in the church and it must be removed immediately following the ceremony.

What about music for our ceremony?

Please speak to your priest or deacon for music and musician suggestions. The Cathedral organist may be available to play the organ at your ceremony. If you hire singers to perform, we recommend that they make arrangements to come to the church beforehand to review the sound system. They can call the parish office to schedule a time between 9:00-4:00 Monday-Friday to do so.

Can we use a runner in the main aisle? What size is needed?

Yes, you may rent an aisle runner elsewhere and bring it into the cathedral. The aisle is 71 feet long.

Is a wedding rehearsal required? Does the church provide a wedding coordinator?

Yes, a rehearsal is required. The presiding priest or deacon conducts the rehearsal and can answer questions regarding the wedding ceremony. Most rehearsals are scheduled the Thursday or Friday preceding the wedding date. There is no wedding coordinator on staff.

What do we need to know regarding flowers and decorations in the church?

The most common forms of wedding decoration in the church are pew bows, floral arrangements on the sides of the main altar and on the side altars. No decorations or flowers may be placed on the altar table. Masking tape is the only adhesive that may be used in the church and it must be removed immediately following the ceremony. Wedding floral arrangements may be left in the church after the ceremony for the entire parish community to enjoy, if you desire. Seasonal decorations for Advent and Christmas (late November – January 6) and Easter (March & April) may not be removed for ceremonies. It may be possible to share flower expenses with other couples who have weddings scheduled for the same day. Call the parish office for pertinent information.

Is flash photography allowed in the church?

Yes, flash photography is allowed during the ceremony. Make arrangements with the priest or deacon if you have any special needs for photography, such as the use of the choir loft and placement of video cameras. It is a good idea to have your photographer see the layout of the church prior to the ceremony. The photographer can call the parish office to schedule a time between 9:00-4:00 Monday through Friday to do so.

How much time is allowed for photographs after the ceremony?

The photo session must last no longer than 30 minutes after the ceremony. This is to accommodate any other services, weddings or the Sacrament of Reconciliation that may follow your ceremony. The priest or deacon will ask you to leave the church after 30 minutes if your session has not concluded. It is the bridal couple's responsibility to advise your photographer and guests of this requirement prior to the wedding.

Can we throw rice or birdseed outdoors or rose petals in the church?

Throwing rice or birdseed is NOT permitted on church grounds. Please notify your guests of this policy. Tossing rose petals is permitted only on the main aisle of the cathedral. Silk rose petals are preferred. Be advised that natural rose petals can stain the carpet and aisle runner. If rose petals are left behind or the carpet is stained, the cleaning deposit will be forfeited. In addition, most rental companies charge a fee if the aisle runner is returned with stains. The bridal couple must pre-arrange for clean up of rose petals after the ceremony.

What clean up is expected after the ceremony?

It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to designate individuals to remove flowers, wedding decorations, rose petals and other items immediately following the ceremony. We are unable to store any items without the prior approval of the priest or parish office receptionist. Florists may call the office if they are unable to pick up floral baskets or stands immediately following the wedding ceremony.

Is there a place available to rent for our reception?

Yes, the Monsignor Becker Center may be available for rent, although availability is limited. It is recommended that the reception facility be reserved when scheduling the wedding. Please call the parish office for further information.

Please contact the parish office at 707-542-6984 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday if you have any further questions and to make appointments.