

St. Philip the Apostle, Occidental & St. Teresa of Avila, Bodega

Wedding Kit

Welcome!

Thank you for considering St. Teresa of Avila in Bodega and St. Philip in Occidental for your wedding. The following covers our basic policy; however, you are most welcome to call the parish office at (707) 874-3812. Janis Wilson, the Wedding Coordinator, will return your call.

Weddings are generally scheduled on Saturdays, at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., or 2:00 p.m. Each wedding is allotted a 2-hour time slot, which allows for seating of guests, the ceremony, and pictures. Other days and times are available. Please inquire.

The administrative fee for the use of St. Teresa of Avila Church in Bodega or St. Philip the Apostle Church in Occidental is \$1200 and includes the services of our wedding coordinator and the services of the parish organist/pianist. The fee also supports the maintenance of the church buildings and helps to support the mission of these historic churches. For parishioners of St. Philip and St. Teresa, the administrative fee is \$800. Parishioners are defined as those registered in the parish and regular donors in the weekly envelope or PayPal donor program. A \$300 non-refundable deposit is required to be paid within a week of the reservation being approved and the balance due 8 weeks prior to the date of the wedding. Please make your check payable to St. Philip & St. Teresa Parish and include the name and date of the wedding party. Please mail it to St. Philip Catholic Church, PO Box 339, Occidental, CA 95465. The wedding coordinator will be in contact with you to assist with any questions you may have, arrange the details of your ceremony, conduct your wedding rehearsal, and assist on your wedding day.

Marriage Preparation:

The churches of St. Philip and St. Teresa Parish can host weddings for couples where at least one party has been baptized or received into the Catholic church and both parties are free to marry under the laws of the Catholic Church. Couples are required to complete all the pre-marriage preparations of the diocese in which they live.

If you wish to be married at St. Teresa or St. Philip and neither of you is a member of our parish, you need to make an appointment with your own local parish clergy to begin the preparation process. Your parish clergy will then be responsible for seeing that all the necessary documents are sent to us well before the wedding date. If neither party is a parishioner here, you will also need a letter of permission to marry here from your own pastor.

You may request that our pastor preside at the ceremony or you may ask a bishop, priest or deacon of your choice. Visiting clergy must abide by all policies and requirements of the Parish and the Diocese of Santa Rosa. In particular, clergy from outside the Diocese of Santa Rosa must have their own Bishop or Religious Superior send a Letter of Good Standing to the Bishop of Santa Rosa with a copy to our pastor.

General Requirements for Catholic Marriages (may vary in your diocese):

- Provide new baptismal certificates with all notations on the back issued within the previous six months. These are obtained by contacting the church in which the baptism took place.
- Proof of freedom to marry according to the canon law of the Catholic church. If either person has been married before, there are additional issues to be resolved before setting a date for a Catholic ceremony. This takes extra time. This must be discussed with your pastor and resolved before a wedding can be scheduled.
- You will also need to complete a marriage preparation program required by your diocese.

Interfaith Marriages

An interfaith (or “mixed”) marriage is one in which one party is Catholic and the other is not; the non-Catholic may be baptized in another Christian church or not baptized at all. If this is your situation, there will be other requirements that need to be completed. The priest or deacon who is dealing with your preparation will inform you of these. Please note that if the non-Catholic party has not been baptized, a Nuptial Mass is not permitted by the Catholic Rite of Matrimony.

Music

The service of our musical director/organist includes a private consultation regarding the musical selections for your ceremony. This consultation is scheduled through our Parish office at (707) 874-3812. It is required that our music director be present at your ceremony to help things run smoothly. You may select music from the list provided, or other music of your choosing may be possible, provided that it is in keeping with the Catholic liturgical nature of the wedding ceremony. Should you wish to have additional musicians, we recommend budgeting approximately \$150 for each. Vocalists and instrumentalists are easily provided. Our music director works with many talented local musicians that you may wish to consider.

Below are some musical suggestions. Specific requests will be considered if the sheet music is provided by the wedding party.

Wedding Party Processional Options:

- Aria – Handel
- Serenade - Clarke
- Processional - Haydn
- Canon in D - Pachelbel
- Arioso - Bach
- Processional - Handel
- Sheep May Safely Graze - Bach • Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring

Bridal Processional Options

- Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke (Purcell) • Trumpet Tune - Clarke (Purcell)
- Rondeau - Mouret
- Trumpet Tune - Purcell

- Te Deum - Charpentier
- Trumpet Tune - Stanley
- Bridal Chorus (*Traditional*) – Wagner

Recessional Options

- Psalm 19 - Marcello
- Prelude in Classic Style - Young
- Allegro - Handel
- Sinfonia - Handel
- Rondo in G - Bull
- Rejoicing - Handel
- Offertorio - Zipoli
- Wedding March (*Traditional*) – Mendelssohn

There is an organ at St. Teresa's and an electric piano and organ at St. Philip's.

The music accompanying the virtual tour on this website was recorded on site with our organist, trumpeter, and violinist.

The following is a useful link for planning your Catholic wedding ceremony:

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/dating-engaged/planning-a-catholic-wedding/>

Photography

You may select your own photographer/videographer, or we will be glad to offer names of qualified local photographers.

Flowers and Decorations

We generally recommend one arrangement on each side of the altar.

The churches do not provide an aisle runner. If desired, you may be able to rent one from most floral companies.

We will be happy to provide you with names of local florists.

The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, or flower petals in either the church or in the parking lot is not allowed.

Artificial flower petals are allowed indoors only, and it is your responsibility to see that all are picked up and disposed of immediately after the ceremony.

If you wish to decorate the church or add any structures, i.e., chairs, stands, or columns, they must be approved in advance.

It is traditional to leave two altar floral or plant arrangements for the Sunday mass.

Special Note About St. Teresa

At St. Teresa's Church there is no center aisle; rather, there are two side aisles.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have a simple ceremony or a nuptial Mass?

You work this out with the priest who will be witnessing your vows (except where one of you is not baptized, as stated above).

My fiancé(e) and I have not attended church for a long time. Can we still get married in your church?

If you would like to marry in any Catholic Church, it is important to establish a tradition of attending Mass regularly. In this way, you will become reacquainted with the prayers and rituals in the Mass and you will get to know a priest with whom you feel comfortable enough to invite to accompany you in the journey through the preparation. Please discuss this further during your initial interview with your priest.

We're very concerned about coordinating the reception hall, etc. for that day. Can we book the church now?

It is never too early to inquire about availability. If you want a particular priest to celebrate, is a good idea to consult with him.

My uncle is a priest, but he lives out of the country. Could he preside at our wedding?

Any priest or deacon that can provide a letter of suitability from his superior or bishop stating that he is in good standing may preside. The marriage preparation may be overseen locally by a priest or deacon in your own parish.

My fiancé(e) is not Catholic. Can we get married in the Catholic Church? I was married before. Can I remarry in the Catholic Church? I still need to make my First Communion and Confirmation. Is this a problem?

These are some of the issues that are discussed in the initial interview with your priest/deacon. Each situation will be examined individually by the priest/deacon, who will give the couple recommendations on how to address specific needs. He is the person who ultimately would declare the couple's readiness for marriage in the Catholic Church.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

Contact your local priest/deacon for general questions about getting married and required preparation. For questions concerning weddings at St. Philip or St. Teresa churches, please contact the parish.

Contact Information

Parish Office & Wedding Coordinator

PO Box 339, Occidental, CA 95665 + Email: philip.teresa@yahoo.com + Phone: 707-874-3812

Pastor Fr. Fergal McGuinness (fmcguinness@srdiocese.org)

PLEASE NOTE: We are a non-profit religious organization and charge only an administrative fee for the use of our facility. As such, we reserve the right to refuse service in accordance with our religion's conscience (religious beliefs) as provided for by federal and state law.

