

Radiate Love: Communal Wedding / Que brille el amor: bodas comunitarias

Invitation to Diocesan Convalidation Communal Wedding (preparation and ceremony)

The Diocese of Orange invites Catholic couples who are not yet sacramentally married to have their marriage validated by the Catholic Church in a communal wedding Mass with Most Reverend Timothy Freyer, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Orange. The nuptial Mass will be on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 6 pm at Christ Cathedral. Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage will be provided in English and in Spanish by the Diocese of Orange Office for Family Life.

Diocesan Preparation Process:

1. Contact your local parish for an appointment to complete the Pre-Nuptial Investigation with your pastor, priest, or deacon.
2. Obtain new copies of the baptismal certificates of both the bride and groom from the parishes where you were baptized. If the parish no longer exists or baptismal records are unavailable, contact the Chancery office of that Catholic diocese for assistance.
3. Submit the following documents to the Diocesan Office for Family Life along with your registration form & fee (\$500 per couple) for the Diocesan Civil Marriage Initiative formation program. Spots are limited.
 - a. Newly-issued Baptismal certificates
 - b. If Catholic, copy of certificates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion
 - c. Letters of Freedom to Marry (2)
 - d. Pre-Nuptial Investigation
 - e. Acknowledgement from the bride's pastor that the couple will be married by Bishop Freyer at Christ Cathedral
 - f. Copy of marriage certificate, if already married civilly
4. Prayerfully discern who you would like to ask to be your mentor couple, and ask them! Mentor couples must be
 - a. Sacramentally married for at least 5-10 years
 - b. Not a member of either the bride or groom's family
 - c. Active members of the same parish as the bride/groom
 - d. A couple whose marriage you admire
5. Attend all meetings and fulfill all formation program requirements:
 - a. Kick-off meeting: **Monday, October 21, 2024** at 7 pm in the Pastoral Center
 - b. FOCCUS Pre-marital inventory for convalidations
 - c. Group Coaching meeting: **November 4, 6, or 8** – Mentor couples must also attend
 - d. Meet 3 times with your mentor couple (November-March). Your parish priest or deacon will join you for Meeting #3.
 - e. Couples retreat: **March 1, 2025** – Mentor couples must also attend

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- f. Rehearsal – **TBD April 2024**
- 6. Nuptial Mass: **Friday, May 2, 2025** at 6 pm at Christ Cathedral
- 7. After the wedding, meet at least one more time with your mentor couple (Meeting #4).

Important note: Due to our limited preparation timeline, we will only accept couples who have no prior marriages (in or outside of the Church). We are only able to accept couples who are married civilly (or cohabitating) with *one and the same partner* whom they will be marrying at this nuptial Mass.

Only couples who are registered parishioners in the Diocese of Orange are eligible for this communal wedding. Acknowledgement from the bride's pastor that the couple will be married by Bishop Freyer must be obtained as part of registration.