

General Information

Christian marriage is a Sacrament in which a man and woman join in a community of love with the possibility of becoming a family. In the love that binds two into one the Christian Community finds an expression of the great love God has for us, a love that binds us to God and to each other as well. The couple confers the Sacrament of Matrimony on each other. In doing so, the two become a source of grace, one for the other. The living-out of their commitment to one another for the whole of their lives is a source of renewed grace each day for them, and a reminder to all of us of God's presence and love.

Who may be married at St. Francis of Assisi?

We recognize that St. Francis of Assisi, and Lake Tahoe in general, is a destination wedding location for many couples wishing to marry. Therefore we allow Catholics who are not St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners to be married in our beautiful church providing they receive their marriage preparation instruction at their local Parish.

Who may officiate?

The Parish Priest of St. Francis of Assisi or other Catholic clergy and Deacons may officiate at the marriage of those who wish to marry at St. Francis of Assisi. **Arrangements may be made for visiting clergy to obtain a license to officiate at the wedding in the State of Nevada. The priest will need to complete the application at www.washoecounty.us/clerks/mo/index.php. Make sure that you follow the directions on payment as it could delay the process. You will also need to provide a Letter of Good Standing from his Diocese or Order. Finally, The Diocese of Reno needs a Letter of Delegation, on Parish letterhead, from Chris Kanowitz, saying that he has given the visiting priest permission to witness the marriage in our parish. Karen Smeath at 775.326.9410 **This process requires at least 3 weeks lead time.****

Common Policy for Pastoral Marriage Preparation

Couples are encouraged to contact their Priest and begin formal marriage preparation as soon as they make a decision to marry. As a minimum requirement couples must contact the Priest and begin their preparation at least six months before the proposed wedding date. This is not intended as a "Waiting Period" but rather one of preparation. Therefore the process of such preparation should begin at the first meeting with the Priest or the St. Francis of Assisi Marriage Preparation Team. Concern with the immediate preparation for the wedding itself can make it difficult for the couple to benefit fully from the preparation itself. Thus it is highly desirable for the couple to complete all the steps of preparation at least three (3) months before the wedding date.

Special considerations: Persons under the age of 19 who wish to marry will be asked to receive individual evaluative counseling before the marriage can be arranged.