



# Saint Patrick Cathedral

1118 North Mesa El Paso, TX 79902 915-533-4451

## *Sacrament of Marriage: Guidelines & Preparation*

### **Who may be married at St. Patrick?**

Anyone who lives within the boundaries of St Patrick parish; or is known to us through Religious Education, parish registration, Stewardship, or any parish activity/ministry.

If a couple wishing to be married at St. Patrick is from another parish, they must first receive permission from their pastor.

Importance is always given to a couple getting married in their own community and couples are encouraged to marry in the parish community to which they belong.

The stipend is \$350 and a \$150 deposit is required at the initial interview and registration.

### **Necessary Documents**

1 - Baptismal Certificate: a Roman Catholic must provide evidence of his/her baptism. A recent certificate (issued after your meeting with the pastor) must be obtained from the church of your baptism and submitted to the office. Those of other Christian denominations must also show proof of baptism.

2 - First Communion & Confirmation Certificates: We will make copies of the original certificates if you have them. When you receive your baptismal certificate see if these sacraments have been noted on the back of the certificate.

3 - Questionnaire: every couple is required to complete a personal information form. At the time of your first appointment, you will complete this form with the priest, your date and time for marriage will also be confirmed and registered in the parish calendar.

4 - Affidavit of Free Status: every individual needs two (2) witnesses to come to the office and give testimony that he/she is free to marry. This testimony is usually obtained from a parent or family member.

5 - A valid Texas Marriage License must be obtained and given to the office at least 72 hours before your scheduled wedding.

6 - Dispensations are needed for those marrying a non-Catholic. The fee is \$10., checks made payable to Diocese of El Paso. Your recent baptismal certificate will be required along with request for a dispensation.

### **Marriage Preparation**

Diocesan policy states that each couple must contact the priest, and/or parish office, at least six months in advance of the anticipated wedding date.

During this time the couple is expected to provide the above forms and complete the following:

- 1 - Participation at *Engaged Encounter* weekend; and/or
- 2 - Participation in *Marriage Preparation* classes.





**Convalidation**  
**-Blessing of Civil Marriages -**

- 1 - Submit all necessary documents as listed above under the heading **“Necessary Documents.”**
- 2 - Please bring your marriage license to the office so we can make a copy for your file.
- 3 - If you have a previous marriage, the guidelines for Previous Marriages apply.
- 4 - Please follow all guidelines for the wedding liturgy.