

Questions people ask...

What are the Group Weddings?

The “Group Weddings” are a ministry approved by the Archbishop in an effort to reach out to couples with at least one Catholic spouse, to invite them back to the sacraments. It is mainly for couples who are already in a marital relationship, either just living together or married civilly. After the required preparations couples celebrate their weddings as a group. During the Wedding Mass couples exchange their vows individually, while some parts of the ritual are done as a group. A small reception is hosted by the church for all the couples and their friends after the Mass.

What do I need to participate?

Couples need to attend one of the Orientation Meetings to begin the process, but even if someone misses those meetings they can participate by completing the “Preliminary Information Form” or by calling our information number.

Who can participate? Couples must be free from any “Canonical Impediment.” In other words; not be held to the bond of a prior marriage. Any prior marriage must have been dissolved by the death of a spouse or annulment before attempting a new marriage.

What is the process?

Couples will meet with a Deacon to fill out the necessary forms, participate in a “One Day Retreat for Couples,” participate in the rehearsal, and celebrate their vows in one of the scheduled Group Wedding Masses.

What if one spouse is non Catholic?

Yes, you may participate. Our brothers and sisters from other denominations married to a Catholic are most welcome to join us in these celebrations and will not be required to change their religion.

What if one spouse lacks some of the sacraments?

Yes, you may participate. In normal cases the Sacraments of Initiation should come first. When a couple is already in a marital relationship, the Sacrament of Marriage must be celebrated first. We will invite these participants to join a sacramental preparation program in their parishes. In some cases the Sacrament of First Communion could be celebrated on the same day of the wedding.

How much?

This effort is completely free. Donations are accepted

What else do I need?

In terms of documents, couples need

- a) Copies of their Baptism Certificate
- b) Marriage License (or copy of it if they are already married civilly)
- c) Documents that would prove, when necessary, that a previous marriage was invalid or null: Divorce decree, Death Certificate.

You also need:

- a) A couple of witnesses to be with you at the celebration
- b) A ring for each one of the spouses, and a “Lazo”
- c) As for attire: A white dress is recommended for brides (not necessarily a bridal dress), and something appropriate for the occasion for bridegroom (not necessarily a tuxedo).