

***“And the Two  
Shall Become One”***

***Mark 10:8***

***Wedding Guidelines***

***Christ Cathedral***

***Diocese of Orange***

***California***

## **YOUR WEDDING AT CHRIST CATHEDRAL:**

First and foremost, we join in thanking the Almighty God for shining His love upon you through the blessing and sanctity of married life. We are delighted that you have chosen to make a lifelong commitment to each other, in the eyes of God. It is our privilege to walk you through the steps of preparing for marriage at Christ Cathedral.

Following are primary considerations which have been designed to answer most of your questions and to assist you on how weddings conducted at the Cathedral:

### **DATE, TIME & LOCATION:**

1. Confirm with the Cathedral's calendaring desk to ensure that the date, time and location you desire will be available.
2. Confirm the date and time with the priest/deacon who will officiate your wedding.
3. Confirm the location of your choice as the Cathedral has several options (e.g., the Cathedral, the Arboretum, and the Chapel in the Sky.).
4. It is not advisable to schedule the reception without knowing the availability of the Cathedral.
5. It is not advisable to book the wedding date, time & location without knowing your previous marriage(s) annulled and granted according to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church prior to the wedding at the Cathedral.
6. **The Liturgical Administrator, Ana Guardado-Chavez (714) 620 - 7862, [aguardado@christcathedralparish.org](mailto:aguardado@christcathedralparish.org) (See last page for parish office hours),** will contact you approximately *three (3) weeks after the Wedding Orientation meeting* to confirm your wedding date, time & location, wedding coordinator, music contact person, paperwork contact person (normally a deacon), and church offering.

### **DOCUMENTS YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PRESENT:**

Preparing for your wedding at the Cathedral entails the following documents, that need to be presented at the Wedding Orientation meeting:

1. **Baptismal Certificate:** Newly issued baptismal certificate from the church where you were baptized. Non-Catholic baptized individuals will also need to submit a valid baptismal certificate. This serves to verify that you are either Catholic or Non-Catholic. *Please turn them in to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*
2. **First Communion and Confirmation Certificates:** If they were issued at the time the sacraments were received, their photocopies will be acceptable. *Please turn them in to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*

3. **Testimony to Prove Free State to Marry:** Four (4) family members, relatives or friends of the bride and groom state that both are free to marry in the Catholic Church. Four (4) copies of the “Testimony to Prove Free State to Marry” are to be completed, signed and witnessed before a priest/deacon or notary public. To download the form, visit <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/> .  
*Please turn them in to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*
  
4. **Previous Marriages:** If either the bride or groom has ever been part of a previous marriage, under any circumstance, it must be annulled and granted according to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church prior to the wedding at the Cathedral. It is not advisable to book the wedding date, time & location without knowing the previous marriages annulled and granted. You are required to provide copies of previous marriage licenses, final divorce decree(s), and/or granted annulments, if applicable.  
*Please turn them in to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*
  
5. **Pre-nuptial Questionnaire:** As part of your wedding requirement at the Cathedral, two copies of the Pre-nuptial Questionnaire are to be completed, dated, and signed by the bride and groom. The Pre-nuptial Questionnaire serves to verify your current marital status and your marriage intentions.
  - a) Single, Widow, Widower, Separated, or Divorced
  - b) Never married before, and now wish to marry your Fiancé at the Cathedral
  - c) Wish to re-marry another spouse at the Cathedral
  - d) Wish your civilly current marriage being blessed at the Cathedral
  - e) Freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage
  - f) Love and honor each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives
  - g) Accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the Law of Christ and his Church  
*Please turn them in to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*
  
6. **Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion:** for a Catholic marries a non-Christian or a non-Catholic baptized. **Dispensation from the Prescribed Rite of Matrimony:** for a Catholic marries a non-Catholic baptized within the Catholic Mass. To download the forms, visit <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/> .  
*Please turn them in to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*
  
7. **Civil Marriage License:** If you are legally married and wish to have your current marriage blessed in the Catholic Church at the Cathedral, *please turn in your civil Marriage License to the priest/deacon at the Wedding Orientation meeting.*
  
8. **Marriage License:** Newly issued and blank Marriage License may be obtained from the County Courthouse and must be valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. The Orange County Courthouse is located at 211 West Santa Ana, Room 201. Business hours are Monday – Friday | 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. *Please turn it in to the priest/deacon two (2) months prior to the wedding.*

## VISITING PRIESTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:

If you would like to have a priest/deacon from outside the Cathedral officiate your wedding, he will need to do the following:

1. Handle and execute all necessary paperwork required of a visiting priest.
2. Ensure that you are prepared and have taken the proper steps for marriage in the style of the Roman Catholic Church, including but not limited to, matrimonial classes, documentation, consultations, advisements, etc. *Please turn in the file to the Rector of Christ Cathedral two (2) months prior to the wedding.*
3. If the priest/deacon is not a member of the Diocese of Orange, he will need to submit to the Rector a current letter of good standing signed by his superior/(arch) bishop. *Please turn it in to the Rector two (2) months prior to the wedding.*
4. Obtain your delegation letter from the Rector *two (2) months prior to the wedding.*

## WEDDING OF VARYING RELIGIOUS FAITHS:

A wedding between two individuals of varying religious faiths may take place through one of the following guidelines:

1. Between **two baptized Catholics** is celebrated within a Catholic Mass.
2. Between a **baptized Catholic** and a **baptized non-Catholic** is celebrated either within or without a Catholic Mass. Please fill out the form “**Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion.**” If **within** a Catholic Mass, fill out the additional form “**Dispensation from the Prescribed Rite of Matrimony.**”
3. Between a **baptized Catholic** and either a **Catechumen** (someone seeking Baptism in the Catholic Church) or a **non-Christian** is celebrated without a Catholic Mass. Please fill out the form “**Disparity of Worship Dispensation/Permission for Mixed Religion.**”

To download the forms, visit <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/>

## MANDATORY ATTENDANCE:

The following meeting and class are *mandatory* and must be taken by both the bride and groom:

1. Attending one (1) **Wedding Orientation meeting**. For registration, please click at <https://www.christcathedralcalifornia.org/marriage/> .
2. Attending one (1) **Marriage Preparation class**. Class may be taken at <https://orangecounty.engagedencounter.com/reservations/> or <https://catholiccourses.advancedministries.com/course/living-faith-love/> .  
*Please turn in its certificate to the priest/deacon two (2) months prior to the wedding.*

## **THE RITE OF MATRIMONY:**

### **1. The Liturgy**

You will be given a copy of the “Together for Life” booklet to guide you in choosing the prayers and the readings for your wedding celebration. Your priest or deacon as well as your wedding coordinator, will be happy to assist you with these selections. The vows you exchange at your wedding celebration are specifically prescribed by the Roman Catholic Church and cannot be altered or changed in any way to ensure the validity of the sacrament. Those who have prepared their own vows will be asked to incorporate those sentiments in different ways as part of the wedding celebration.

### **2. Types of Ceremonies – The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Together for Life, pg. 10.** The priest/deacon helping you plan your wedding ceremony will guide you in choosing which form of the rite is most appropriate for your wedding. There are three (3) forms:

- (1) Matrimony within Mass
- (2) Matrimony without Mass, and
- (3) Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian without Mass.

See “Wedding of Various Religious Faith” above for required documents.

### **3. Music**

All music before, during, and after the wedding liturgy reflect Christian meanings, reverence, and faithfulness of the Marriage Rite, and is therefore sacred in nature and important that only sacred music is used for your wedding liturgy.

For your wedding at Christ Cathedral, one Cathedral Staff Organist will be available to play for your ceremony, in addition to a Parish Cantor to sing the sung parts of the ceremony. The cantor will also serve as your wedding Soloist. If you would like to book a choir, one of our Cathedral Choirs (either the Cathedral Schola, a quartet of professional singers, a Spanish or Vietnamese one) or the Contemporary Choirs (a small group of young adult singers) can help support the congregational singing as well as provide excellent choral music for your wedding celebration. Please speak with our Music Administrator for more details. While only Cathedral Staff Organists will play for your wedding and only Cathedral Musicians will serve as cantor or choir for the liturgy, the use of an outside singer, while not encouraged, is permitted on one or two selections. The outside singer should be a professional singer who is trained in sacred literature. Our sacred liturgy requires a highly trained singer, not just a friend or family member who “has a nice voice”. If you would like to add flourish to your celebrations, our Cathedral Instrumentalists, all professionals who play regularly for the parish, are

also available. They can be booked upon request for an additional fee. We will discuss this during your wedding music appointment.

Please contact **Lauren McCaul, Cathedral Music Administrator**, to begin the process of planning your wedding music at (714) 620 - 7912, [lmccaul@christcathedralparish.org](mailto:lmccaul@christcathedralparish.org). Wedding music planning can be done well in advance of the wedding but *should be completed 2 months prior to your wedding*.

#### **4. Photography and Videography**

Photographers/Videographers are to be unobtrusive as possible. In other words, you are to observe the basic “line of sight” rule throughout the ceremony. Please have the photography team observe the following guidelines.

- Do NOT to position yourselves in the following areas:
  - In front of the center (nave) pews of front row seats
  - In any part of the sanctuary area
- Flash photography during the ceremony is prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.
- All photographs, videos, and livestreams are to be used for private use only and not to be sold or used for marketing purposes.
- Please speak with your coordinators for details and arrangements.
- *Please see attached diagrams for photographer positions.*

#### **5. Wedding Decorations, Floral Arrangements, and Props**

Marriage is a sacramental ceremony. To maintain safety and cleanliness at each celebration, please observe the following guidelines.

- No more than two arrangements are to be used in the worship space.
- The church does not provide any floral equipment, stands, or pedestals.
- All floral arrangements must be in complete readiness when brought to the church.
- All floral arrangements are to be delivered no earlier than 30 minutes prior to the wedding ceremony. We advise delivering boutonnieres and corsages to families’ prior to arriving to the ceremony to avoid last minute mishaps.
- No unity candles, other candles, or aisle runners.
- No flower petals (real or fake), rice, bird seed, confetti, and bubbles allowed during and after all wedding ceremonies.

#### **6. Children in the Matrimony Procession**

Children in the wedding party, such as flower girls and ring bearers, must be of the age of childhood maturity at ages 6 or above. Younger children are not at the approved age for these significant roles.

## **HOW TO PLAN YOUR WEDDING CELEBRATION:**

### **1. Wedding Arrival Time**

Each wedding celebration must begin promptly at its scheduled time out of respect for the many liturgies and other activities that are scheduled at the parish. The church is on a strict schedule with many other obligations, responsibilities, and masses. Your party, parents, and anyone else in the ceremony should be notified that they are to be in attendance 30 minutes prior to the Wedding.

### **2. Wedding Rehearsal**

When a date and time has been sent for your wedding, you will be assigned a wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator will secure your rehearsal date and time, explain the expectations, and guide you through your wedding celebration. Rehearsals will be conducted by the wedding coordinator and will last no longer than 60 minutes.

### **3. Wedding Coordinators**

The wedding coordinator will make her initial contact with the bride and groom within 4 months of the wedding and is available to confer regarding questions about the rehearsal and ceremony. The wedding coordinators will assist the Bride and Groom in all the planning details of the church ceremony in accord with the protocols and procedures of Christ Cathedral Parish. She will be present prior and throughout your ceremony to assure the smooth and orderly flow of the liturgy and the comfort of guests, and will tend to the wedding party, direct florists, photographers, and ushers.

### **4. Etiquette**

The church is a sacred place of worship. Respectful behavior is expected from all who enter the church. Loud talking, shouting, smoking, eating, or drinking etc., are not appropriate at any time in any location. We ask that you, the bride and groom, to kindly remind your wedding party and guests of these practices.

### **5. Reconciliation – Trilingual**

It is appropriate for the Bride and Groom to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way of preparing for your wedding day. You should plan to attend regular reconciliation times at the parish or set an appointment for a private confession in the days before your wedding celebration. Reconciliation time will not be available during your wedding rehearsal or on the day of your wedding. For your convenience, the parish reconciliation times are Fridays 6:00 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am.

## **TO RESERVE A VENUE FOR A “RECEPTION” ON CAMPUS:**

Please contact the Hospitality Department at 714-620-7920.

## SCHEDULE OF FEE

### **1. Church's Donation:**

It is customary to make a suggested donation to the Church for her utilities.

**\$1,100:** for parishioners registered as members for at least nine (9) months.

**\$1,600:** for non-parishioners within Diocese.

**\$2,100:** for non-parishioners outside Diocese.

### **2. In addition:**

We collect **\$790** from each wedding: music (\$450), wedding coordinator (\$230), altar servers (\$40), power point (\$40) and sacristan (\$30).

### **3. Venue:**

**Cathedral** *capacity 2,200*

**Arboretum** *capacity 1,200*

**Chapel in the Sky** *capacity 80*

### **4. Note:**

Fees are subject to change and *will be due no later than 30 days prior to your wedding.*

At the time your wedding date is set, a non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required and you will have up to 7 days to bring it *into* the parish office.

The remaining balance is due 30 days *before* the date of your wedding. Cash or checks are accepted for all fee payments. Checks should be made out to "Christ Cathedral Parish". Credit card payments are accepted but are subject to a 1.5% fee.

Since the fee is given to the parish and not the priest/deacon officiating your wedding, you may wish to offer him a thank you gift.

## YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYER:

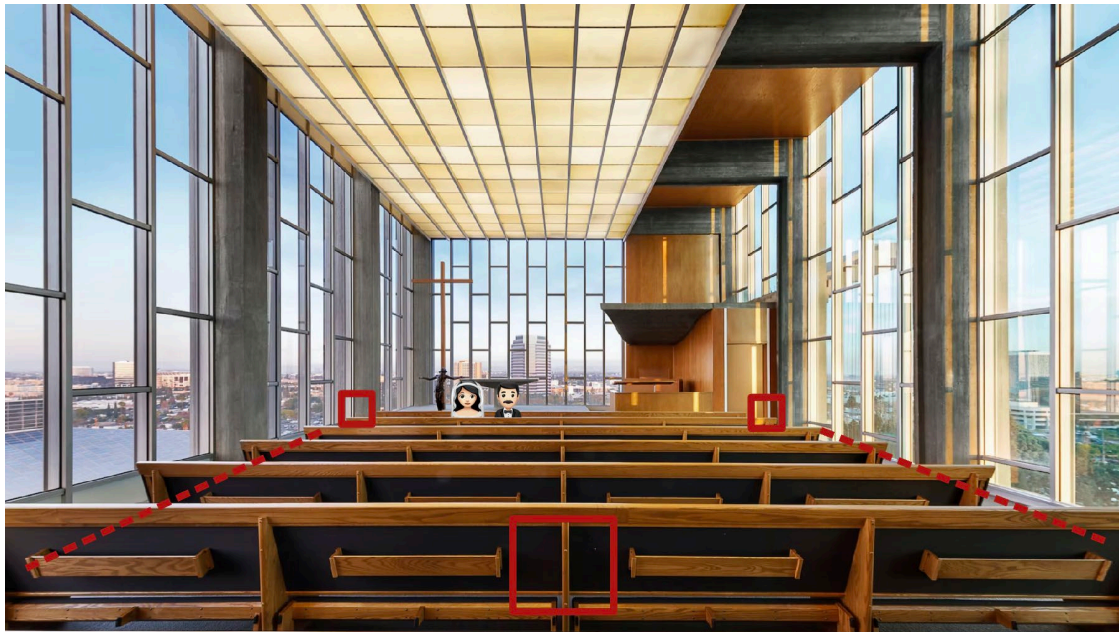
We pray that the Lord continues to enrich and strengthen you through the special rite of marriage. We hope that your experience with us will be pleasant, and an encouragement to further your involvement in the life of the Church. We will make every effort and consideration to accommodate your wishes while adhering to the Canon Laws of the Roman Catholic Church. We look forward to being part of your special day.

Through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, may God bless you abundantly and bring to completion your respect and love for each other!



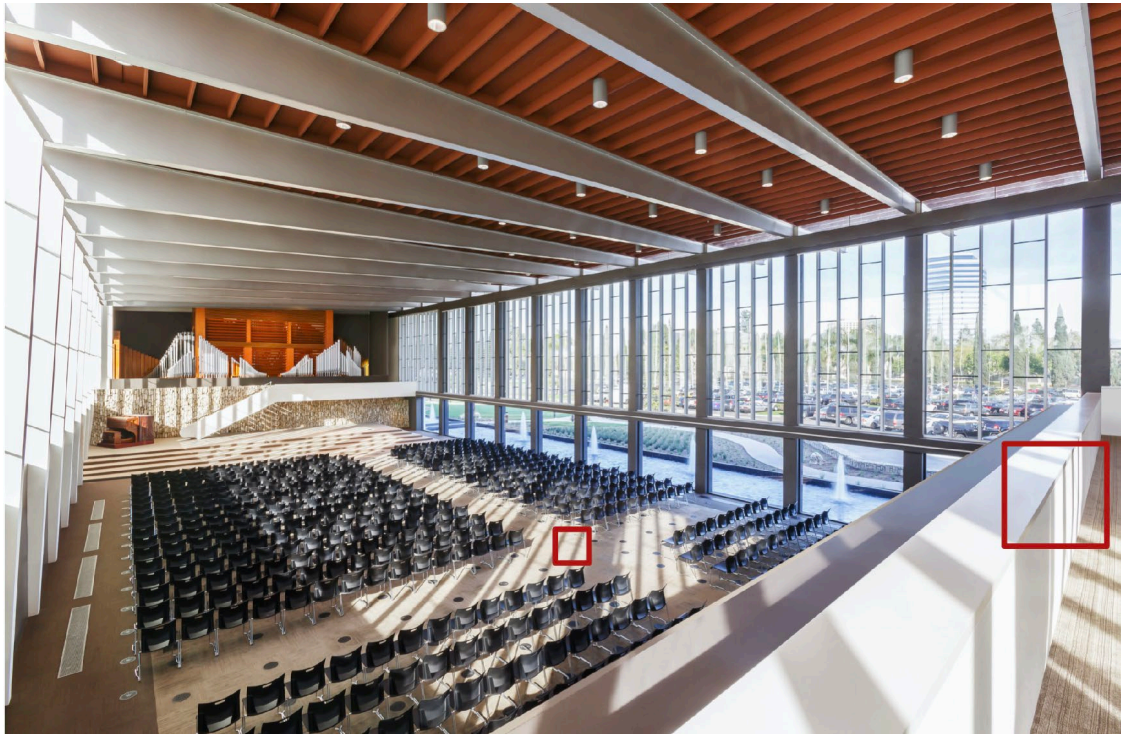
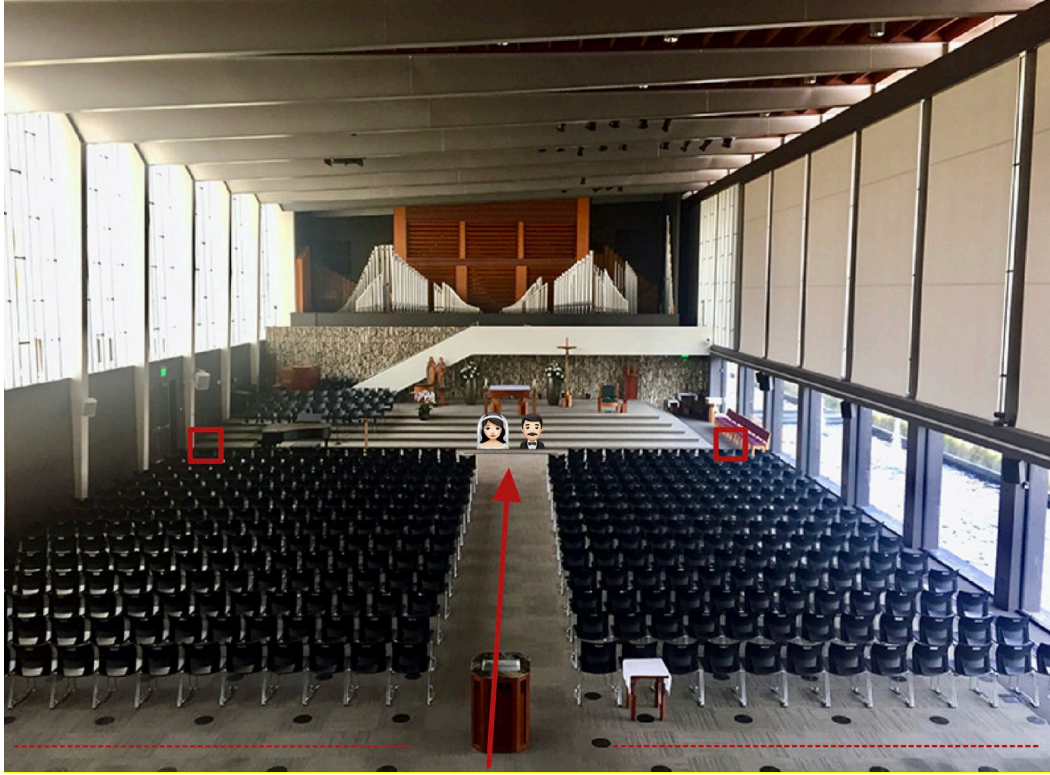


Permitted Photographer Positions in **Christ Cathedral**.  
Please speak with your coordinator for further details.

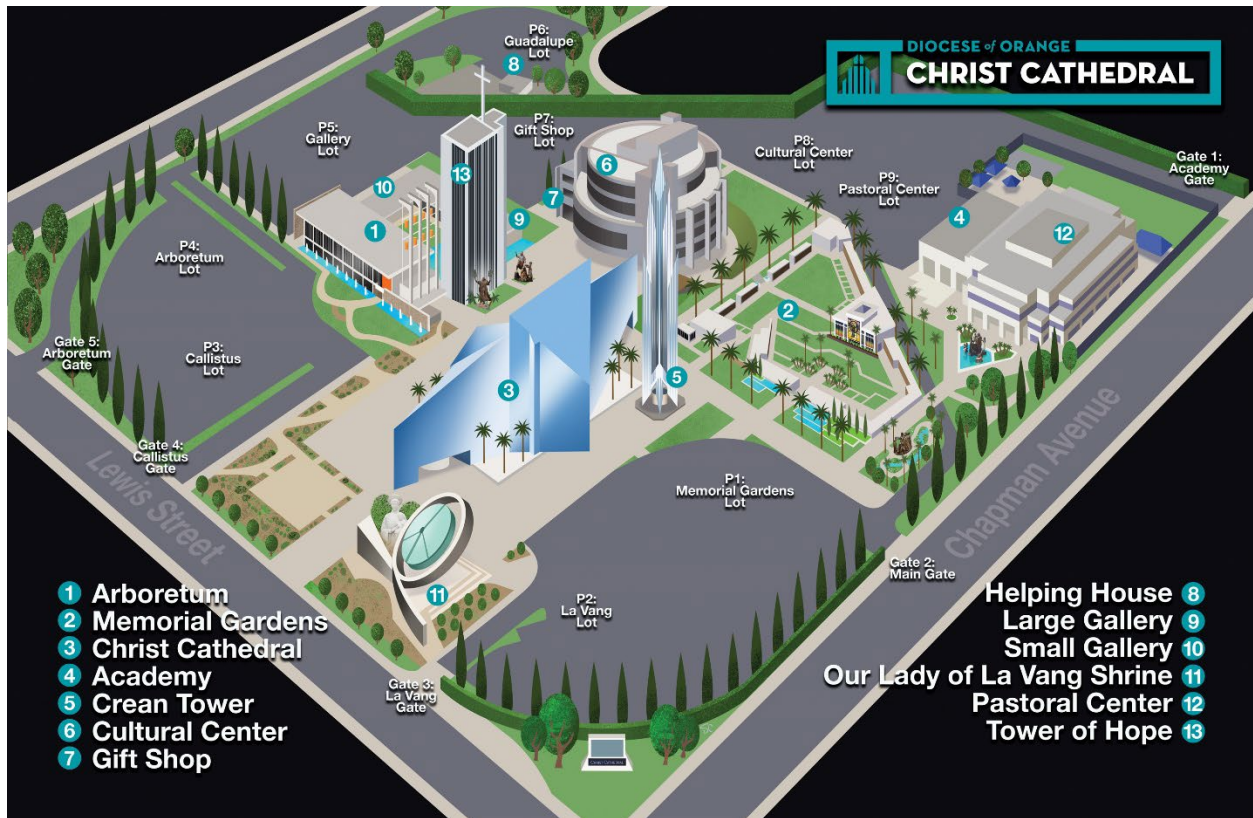


Permitted Photographer Positions in the **Chapel in the Sky**.  
Please speak with your coordinator for further details.





Permitted Photographer Positions in the **Arboretum**.  
Please speak with your coordinator for further details.



## CHRIST CATHEDRAL PARISH

12141 South Lewis Street  
 Garden Grove, CA 92840  
 714-971-2141

Christcathedralparish.org  
 Parish@Christcathedralparish.org

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Friday | 9:30 am to 5:00 pm  
 Saturday – Sunday | 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

*Revised on 09/20/2024*