

*Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Assunção dos Portugueses*

*Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church*

*P.O. Box 2030 (2602 S. Walnut Rd.) Telephone: (209) 634-2222 . Fax: (209)634-2366*

*Turlock, California 95381*

*Email: [www.OLAssumption.net](http://www.OLAssumption.net)*

---

Dear Bride and Groom:

I am delighted that you chose to get married at Our Lady of the Assumption. The wedding coordinating team and I are honored to accompany you to the great Sacrament of Matrimony. We will do our best to assist you and make you feel at home.

When you come before the whole community to commit your lives to God, you are promising to live in your marriage and family life the love of Jesus. Jesus is faithful and his love is forever, all the way to the cross. Your relationship and your marriage is your way of following Jesus. If you are not already a member of our parish community, we welcome you to follow Jesus with us in the coming years. We encourage you to register as a parishioner and participate in the Eucharist every Sunday. Later, we will welcome the opportunity of baptizing your children.

A church wedding is more than just a nice ceremony. It is an act of faith in God and in each other. We call it a Sacrament, a sign of God's dwelling among His people. Your love for each other is God's gift. It is His overflowing love present in your heart. Therefore, your marriage needs to be "in the Lord". We hope that this faith dimension will be very important to you and that you will make it a priority in the midst of busy and stressful preparations. Give serious thought to what you are doing.

The most recommended context for a Christian wedding is the Eucharist, at Mass. In it, the new spouses receive the Bread of Life, Jesus Himself becomes food for the journey of life. We hope that you will welcome Jesus sacramentally that day. If one of you is not a Catholic or you have other reasons, you may discuss that with a priest when you first meet to initiate the process. To be ready to receive the Eucharist, it is the mind of the Church that the bride and the groom celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that is, that they go to Confession a few days before the wedding. It is also the mind of the Church that you do a marriage preparation program six months in advance.

To receive communion you need to be a Catholic, not be conscious of grave sin and have abstained from food and drink (other than water) for at least an hour before reception. Please inform your wedding party of these conditions. Those not going to communion may come in the procession for a blessing.

Enclosed are the guidelines for weddings at Our Lady of the Assumption. If you have any questions, please call us from 9 AM – 3 PM Monday through Friday.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Manuel Fontes Sousa  
Pastor