

Required Marriage Documents

Marriage File Deadlines

The Diocese of Raleigh requires that all marriage files be submitted by St. Mary Magdalene **at least eight (8) weeks before your wedding date.**

If you are preparing for marriage through St. Mary Magdalene but will be married in another Catholic diocese, all required documents must be submitted **at least ten (10) weeks before your wedding.** After the Diocese of Raleigh reviews and approves your file, it will be forwarded to the diocese where your wedding will take place for final approval before being sent to the parish where your ceremony will be celebrated.

Required Documents

Form A: Prenuptial Investigation

The Prenuptial Investigation (Form A) must be completed with a St. Mary Magdalene priest or deacon. Both the bride and groom must be present for this meeting.

Sarah Sansone will assist you in scheduling your Prenuptial Investigation.

Form B: Declaration of Freedom to Marry

Form B's can be found on the Diocese website [HERE](#).

Each engaged person must submit **two (2) Form B's**, for a total of **four (4) forms**.

Preferred Witnesses

Witnesses should be selected in the following order of preference:

1. Parents (preferred)
2. Close family members
3. Close friends who have known the bride or groom since at least age 18

Please note:

- Future in-laws should not serve as witnesses.
- The bride and groom may not complete Form B for one another.
- Each Form B must be signed, dated, and notarized or witnessed by Catholic clergy.

Original forms are required. Electronic copies and photocopies cannot be accepted.

Completed forms may be mailed or delivered to:

St. Mary Magdalene Church

Attn: Sarah Sansone

625 Magdala Place

Apex, NC 27502

Baptismal Certificates

Catholic Bride and Groom

Each Catholic party must obtain a **newly issued Baptismal Certificate** dated within **six months of the wedding date**.

Certificates issued at the time of baptism are not accepted because they do not include sacramental notations such as First Communion, Confirmation, or previous Catholic marriages.

Updated certificates may be sent directly to St. Mary Magdalene or mailed to the bride or groom. If mailed to you, the **original certificate** must be submitted to the parish. Electronic copies and photocopies cannot be accepted.

If You Were Baptized in Another Christian Tradition

Please provide one of the following:

- A copy of your baptismal certificate, or
- A letter from your church confirming your baptism.

If neither can be obtained, please contact Sarah Sansone.

If You Entered the Catholic Church Through OCIA (formerly RCIA)

If you were baptized in another Christian denomination and later entered the Catholic Church through a Profession of Faith, please provide a **newly issued Certificate of Profession of Faith**, dated within six months of the wedding.

In this case, proof of your original non-Catholic baptism is not required.

If You Are Unbaptized

If either the bride or groom has never been baptized, this will be documented during the Prenuptial Investigation.

Previous Marriages

If either the bride or groom has been previously married and the former spouse is still living, a **Decree of Nullity** issued by the appropriate Catholic Tribunal is required before a wedding date may be scheduled.

Photocopies or electronic copies of the Decree of Nullity are acceptable.

If you have not yet begun the annulment process, please contact Sarah Sansone as soon as possible so we can assist you.

If a Previous Spouse Is Deceased

Please provide a copy of the state-issued death certificate. Electronic copies or photocopies are acceptable.

Questions?

For assistance with any required documents or the marriage preparation process, please contact:

Sarah Sansone
Sacrament Coordinator
sansone@stmm.net