

IS MY MARRIAGE A SACRAMENT IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Misunderstandings about what makes marriage a sacrament in the Catholic Church may lead to misunderstandings about your marriage.

1) Did you make your preparations for your present marriage in the Catholic Church?

When a Catholic is married to another Catholic or to a non-Catholic person, the marriage must follow the norms of the Catholic Church for it to be a valid sacrament.

2) Have you or your present spouse been previously married?

When you or your present spouse have been previously married and your present marriage is a remarriage for either or both of you, the Catholic Church must determine which of these marriages is a valid sacrament.

If your answer is “No” to the first question or “Yes” to the second question, your relationship to the Catholic Church may have been compromised.

The Good News is that Good Shepherd Catholic Community is here to help you. Please contact Deborah Petasky for assistance at 817-421-1387, Ext. 4038.

For your first meeting with Deborah please bring a copy of your baptismal certificate if you are Catholic OR a copy of your Profession of Faith when you had become Catholic, a certified copy of your Civil Divorce Decree if you had been previously married, and a copy of your Civil Marriage License if you are now remarried.

The Catholic Church places highest priority on individuals living a committed life within the faith community through the sacraments. The integrity of our full communion with the Catholic Church as the Body of Christ must be preserved.

At the same time, the Catholic Church does not wish to disrupt your marriage or family life. We will walk with you with compassion on your journey of reconciliation to God and yourself until you are restored to full communion with the Catholic Church.

**Thank you,
Father Richard**