



San Diego

CATHOLIC WEDDING EXPO



BONUS: Faith-Filled Ideas

Looking for ways to include intentional Catholic choices into your wedding planning? Look no further! Below is a compilation of things we did to make our weddings extra special, as well as things we WISH we had known about when we were in your shoes. Enjoy!

- **Have a Betrothal Ceremony** - Ask your priest if you can schedule a special mass just for you and your fiancé to make a more formal commitment to each other with Christ at the center.
- **Pray a novena** - During the 9 days leading up to your wedding, pray a novena together. The final days before your wedding don't have to be stressful! Give it to Jesus and He will carry you.
- **Incorporate your faith in your invitations** - Include a favorite wedding bible or saint quote and/or sacred symbols - the possibilities are endless!
- **Bridal Bouquet** - Have a special heirloom rosary? Consider wrapping it around the stems of your bouquet, or include a miraculous medal or other blessed object of your choosing.
- **Create a rosary** - You might already be familiar with bridal bouquet preservation, but you can also dry your wedding flowers to be made into rosary bead clay.
- **Flowers to Mary** - Honor our Blessed Mother with a single bloom or small bouquet offering during your wedding ceremony. This is traditionally done after communion while "Ave Maria" is sung by your cantor or choir. Use this time to ask the intercession and example of the ONLY perfect woman that ever was!
- **Holy Home Decor** - Consider adding beautiful religious items to your wedding registry such as statues, sacred art, hidden rosaries, prayer candles, holy water fonts, etc.
- **Saints or bible verses instead of table numbers** - A sweet, subtle way to remind all your wedding guests you're Catholic and proud of it!
- **Croatian Crucifix** - This tradition stems from a small town of Coratia with **zero reported divorces**. Pick out a crucifix you would like as the family crucifix in your home. Recite your wedding vows with the crucifix in hand, and you might even consider kissing the cross after vows. (You can still kiss each other at the conclusion of your mass/ ceremony!)
- **Feet washing** - Instead of having the groom remove the bride's garter at the wedding reception, he can wash his bride's feet.
- **Wedding Bible** - Most couples will get a beautiful bible to be blessed during their wedding ceremony that will become their family bible. Break it in at your wedding by having your lectors and celebrant read from it during the liturgy of the word.
- **Catholic wedding favors** - A great way to remind your guests to continue to pray for you! You can have custom prayer cards created with or without a saints medal attached, custom rosaries, mini statues, blessed salt, holy water, the list goes on.
- **Welcome children** - Welcome Jesus' beloved little ones with a kid's table with board games, activities, coloring books and crayons. Lay down butcher paper for them to doodle on. Rent a separate room just for kids with childcare.