Everyday Catholicism

Why Can't Catholic Priests Get Married?

Every once in a while, someone asks me, "Father, why can't Catholic priests get married?" The answer may surprise you: the Catholic Church does have married priests. In fact, in various Eastern Catholic Churches married men are allowed to be ordained to the priesthood. There are even situations in the Latin Church where men who are married receive ordination to the priesthood. What we experience in the United States, though, is what has been the tradition in the Latin Church for many centuries: a call to celibacy for her priests.

This celibacy is a discipline of the Church. It is not mandated by what priesthood itself demands. Priests in the Eastern Catholic Churches have had a different experience for centuries. Married men can receive ordination as priests, though bishops are chosen from among celibate men. And, as in the Latin Church, once a man is ordained a priest, he does not marry. These different traditions remind us that marriage and priesthood are not incompatible.

Which brings us back to the original question. Why does the Latin Church value priestly celibacy? Jesus Christ tells us when he speaks of those who have given up marriage "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:12). Saint Paul echoes this when he explains how the unmarried man can give himself more completely "to the things of the Lord" (1 Cor. 7:32). Celibacy gives priests a particular freedom to give themselves to Christ and to the people he has called them to serve.

Surely there is a practical benefit to this. Consider the vocation of marriage and family life. Now add to that the responsibility of leading and caring for a parish of approximately 300 to 400. Practical? Yes. But that's not the deepest reason why priests remain celibate. A priest does not avoid marriage because he is too busy. He embraces celibacy as a way of offering his life to Christ and his Church.

Marriage is also a gift from God. In marriage a husband and wife help each other to live out that gift and to grow in holiness. Priestly celibacy does not lessen the sacrament of marriage. Instead, celibacy points forward to what awaits every Christian at the end of our journey here on earth. Our heavenly Father wants to give us complete communion with him. By God's grace, the celibate priest tries to make something of that future Kingdom visible in this world. Celibacy, welcomed with joy, "proclaims the Reign of God."

Please pray for your priests. Pray that we might live out this gift with fidelity and joy, with hearts given to Christ and to his people. And pray that whether God calls each of us to marriage, priesthood, religious life, or some other way of living out our discipleship, we may all give ourselves completely to him.

Catechism Connection: Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 7:32–35; CCC 1579–1580.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

360 Park Ave. · Cayucos, CA 93430 · 805-995-3243
OfficeAdmin@SaintJosephCayucos.org · www.SaintJosephCayucos.org

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?"
"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."
— Matthew 20:1-16a

Mass Intentions

Sat.	19	Keith Hart
Sun.	20	Tim Aguilar
Mon.	21	St. Joseph's Parishioners
Tues.	22	+Mary Fatooh
Wed.	23	Claire Andre
Thurs.	24	+Barbara Sharp
Thurs.	24	(Spanish) Todos los fieles difuntos
Fri.	25	+Priscilla Spawn
Sat.	26	Bill Mazzacane
Sun.	27	+Conrad Alli Solum

September 20, 2026

Most Rev. Ramón Bejarano
Bishop of Monterey

Rev. Martel Ramos
Pastor
Pastor@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Office Hours
Monday–Thursday
10:00 AM–4:30 PM
Friday — Closed

Parish Staff
Judy Ann Cross
Business Administrator
BusinessAdmin@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Mass Schedule
Monday–Friday — 9:00 AM
Thursday — 6:30 PM (Spanish)
Saturday Vigil — 5:00 PM
Sunday — 10:00 AM

Rosary
Weekdays — 8:30 AM

Confessions
Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass
First Saturday — 4:00 PM

Adoration & Benediction
Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass

Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Saturday, September 19, at 4:00 p.m., before the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Mission Appeal: Building the Church in Mission Land, USA

Father Charles Aketch of the Glenmary Home Missioners will visit our parish the weekend of September 19–20. Glenmary serves rural communities in Appalachia and the South where there is no Catholic church or resident priest.

Originally from Kenya, Father Charles was ordained in 2019 and now serves as Glenmary's Vocation Director. He will share how Glenmary brings the Sacraments, faith formation, pastoral care and assistance to people in mission areas throughout the United States.

Please welcome Father Charles and consider supporting Glenmary's ministry through your prayers and generosity. To learn more, visit Glenmary.org

Supporting Our Parish

If you would like to make a special gift to Saint Joseph Parish, you may designate your donation to our Capital Campaign, which supports major parish projects such as the rectory, or to our Building and Maintenance Fund, which helps care for and maintain our church and parish facilities.

Thank you for your generosity and support of Saint Joseph. Online giving is available through the parish website at saintjosephcayucos.org, where you may choose from these and other giving categories.

Celebrate These Feast Days with Us

Please join us for Mass at 9:00 a.m. on:

September 21

Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 29

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

All are welcome.

Invitation to Participate: Diocese of Monterey Community Survey

The Diocese of Monterey is entering Phase II of its strategic discernment process regarding future educational opportunities connected with the former Notre Dame High School campus. The Community Survey is an important part of this mission-centered process of research, surveys, and listening sessions. As Bishop Ramón Bejarano shared in his July communication, no particular educational model or future use of the campus has been predetermined.

Parents and guardians, parishioners, educators, alumni, and community members are invited to complete the Community Survey and share their perspectives about the educational needs and priorities of children, youth, and families in the Salinas community and the wider region. Broad participation will help the Diocese listen carefully and responsibly consider a range of possibilities.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please participate and share the survey with others in the community through September 30, 2026.

English: surveymonkey.com/r/dioceseofmontereycommunitysurvey

Spanish: surveymonkey.com/r/encuestaalacomunidaddeladiocesisdemonterey

Questions may be directed to Superintendent Dan Anderson · 831-373-1608 · danderson@dioceseofmonterey.org

English Spanish



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND INJURED

Steve Santi
Stan Piwaworski
Jim & Joanne Tobias
Innette Starkenburg
Steve Buller
Michael Shields
Camelia Cross
Mary Moloney
Mickey Bruno
Gary & Bonnie Nelson
Butch Rambaud
Marina Taverner
Keith Hart
Carlos Cortes
Eric Solum
Glen Bennett
Bonnie Bowman
Bill Mazzacane
Editha Andres
William Baldwin
Sandy Johnson