

PICTURES

To honor the sacredness of this day and the marriage rite, photographers are encouraged to perform their tasks in a way that ensures that distractions are kept to a minimum. At no time should the photographer through their actions disrupt the liturgy.

If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at (415)454-8141.



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Please notify your wedding party and guests that alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the Church premises.
- The throwing of rice, seeds, confetti, rose petals or any items of this nature at the end of the wedding is STRICTLY prohibited. This action presents a safety risk for everyone present. Saint Raphael Church is not responsible for the consequences of any accidents that may result if this is not followed.

Church of Saint Raphael and Mission San Rafael Archangel

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR CATHOLIC WEDDING

Congratulations! We rejoice with you on your engagement and upcoming wedding. On behalf of Saint Raphael Church I welcome you and we look forward to serving you during this special time.

Weddings are expressions of love and joy for brides and grooms, their families, friends and the entire Church. The new beginnings, the love, promises and hope which we celebrate are grace filled moments in the life of the Church.

Acknowledging that the preparation time can be challenging as well as exciting, this wedding brochure is provided for your convenience and planning. We promise you our prayers and support as we look forward to walking with you in preparing for your marriage.

May God's faithful love be with you always.

In Christ,

Msgr. Romulo Vergara, Administrator

**1104 Fifth Avenue
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PREPARATION

- The preparation process takes at least six months.
- Your first meeting will be with a member of the clergy. Please contact the office to make an appointment with them directly at (415)454-8141.
- Attend a marriage preparation retreat given through the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The information regarding the retreat will be given to you during one of your first meetings.
- A series of meetings with the clergy after the FOCCUS survey has been completed.
- Periodic meetings with the clergy or other couples who assist with Marriage Preparation, including required paper work.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- A recent copy of your baptismal certificate including any notations of sacraments that you have received.
- After you have completed the preparation process you must obtain a Marriage license issued by the State of California within 90 days of the date of the wedding. For more information please contact the Marin County Clerk's Office at (415) 499-6152.

DONATION

The donation to the parish for a wedding is \$1,000.00. This donation covers the cost of the preparation process as well as the processing of paperwork, the use of the facilities and the music for the liturgy. The donation may be paid at any time during the preparation process. A non-refundable \$200.00 deposit is required at the time of scheduling which will be applied to the total donation. The donation must be received by the time of the wedding rehearsal.

If you are being married in another church and require paper work and marriage preparation at Saint Raphael the suggested donation is \$300.00.

It is customary, but not necessary, for the couple to offer the presiding priest or deacon a monetary gift. If you wish you may present this offering in an envelope at the time of the rehearsal.

PLANNING FOR THE DAY

During the preparation process, you will be asked to contact the Parish office to plan the music and arrange all the details for the wedding day. As you begin your planning, if you have general questions about music, please contact our Music Director at (415)454-8141, ext 14.

THE WEDDING DAY

On your wedding day you will have use of the facilities for two hours: 30 minutes prior to the time of the ceremony, 1 hour for the liturgy itself and 30 minutes at the conclusion of the liturgy. It is very important to be on time in order to take advantage of these time allocations. Ceremonies are scheduled in the Mission Chapel at 11:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Ceremonies are scheduled in the Church at 10:00am, 12:00pm and 2:00pm. Ceremonies in the Church must be completed by 3:30pm.

REHEARSALS

Wedding rehearsals are usually scheduled on the Thursday prior to the date of the wedding. We allow 45 minutes for each rehearsal so promptness is essential.

FLOWERS

- Flowers may be attached to the ends of the pews if they are secured with ribbon or "pew clips." No tape, nails, or staples are allowed.
- Flower arrangements must be removed immediately after the ceremony unless they are being donated to the Church or shared with the couple getting married after you on the same day.
- Installation and use of a runner down the main aisle of the Church or Mission is prohibited.
- The throwing of rose petals, bird seed or rice at the end of the ceremony is prohibited.
- The Parish is not responsible for floral arrangements or decorations in the Church or Mission on your wedding day.

