

“You will reciprocally promise love, loyalty, and matrimonial honesty. We only want for you this day that these words constitute the principle of your entire life and that with the help of divine grace you will observe these solemn vows that today, before God, you formulate.”

~Pope St. John Paul II



#### Fees:

##### To St. Raphael Parish:

Parishioners	\$100
Non-parishioners	\$250
Music Director	\$150
Wedding Coordinator	\$75
Altar Servers	\$20/ each server

*All fees, along with the marriage license and wedding program, are to be given to the wedding coordinator, in separate envelopes, prior to the start of the wedding rehearsal.*



#### Fr. Chris' Bookshelf~

Fr. Chris Donley recommends the following books and resource materials to enrich your engagement and upcoming marriage.

- Scott Hahn, *First Comes Love*
- Scott and Kimberly Hahn, *Life-Giving Love: Embracing God's Beautiful Design for Marriage*
- Fulton Sheen, *Three to Get Married*
- Steve Bollman, *The Choice Wine: 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage*
- Gary D. Chapman, *The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts*
- Christopher West,  
*Good News about Sex and Marriage*  
*Theology of the Body for Beginners*
- Jason Evert, *How to Talk to Teens about Chastity*

# Before you say, "I do"



*A guide for all couples preparing for marriage at St. Raphael Parish*



*St. Raphael Parish  
Parish and Education Center  
[www.straphaelpgh.org](http://www.straphaelpgh.org)  
412-661-3100*



## You're engaged!

Congratulations! You are getting ready to begin a new chapter in your lives, embarking on a journey of a lifetime. Your marriage, rooted in faith and love, will be strengthened by God's blessings and Grace.

### What to do:

There are several steps needed to get ready for your upcoming wedding at St. Raphael Parish. Listed below, you will find the contact information of the people you need to meet with prior to your wedding. Remember, while you are planning your wedding, you are also entering into a beautiful sacrament of a lifelong marriage. At Saint Raphael Parish, we will help to prepare you for a lifetime filled with faith and lasting joy.


1. Register online through the parish website at [www.straphaelpgh.org](http://www.straphaelpgh.org). Click on the link for the Marriage Assessment Form, which needs to be completed in full. Once submitted, you will be contacted by Dolores Shipe, Director of Marriage and Family. Dolores will schedule an initial meeting with the both of you.

2. During your initial meeting, Dolores will guide you through the steps to prepare for your upcoming wedding at St. Raphael. She will:
  - Assist in securing a wedding date
  - Demonstrate how to navigate the website
  - Register both of you for the FOCCUS assessment ~ to be completed online, separately
  - Provide information for God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage, which fulfills the diocesan pre-marriage requirement
  - Outline your next steps—who to contact and when.
3. Deacon Bill Hahn ~ Six months prior to your wedding, Deacon Bill meets with every couple to complete the diocesan required paperwork. Deacon Bill will also discuss the Sacrament of Marriage and how it looks in everyday life. (412-661-3100 or [whahn@straphaelpgh.org](mailto:whahn@straphaelpgh.org))
4. Fr. Chris Donley, pastor, will review the results of the FOCCUS assessment. He will also discuss the beauty of your upcoming marriage and the life you are planning together, embracing God's plan for your marriage. (412-661-3100 or [cdonley@straphaelpgh.org](mailto:cdonley@straphaelpgh.org))



5. Attend God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage, pre-marriage weekend at St. Raphael Parish (Spring) or at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish. (Winter).
6. Enjoy a complimentary dinner with a married couple from St. Raphael Parish. The couple will contact you and schedule the dinner during your engagement.

## ~After the wedding~

Newly Married &   
Embracing the Grace

After your wedding, as you begin your beautiful and grace-filled marriage, you will be invited to attend days and evenings of enrichment. Look for wine and cheese events as well as Saturday and Sunday brunch! There will be speakers, married couples, good food, great information and helpful tips!

## ~Timeline~

### (At Least) Six months prior

According to Diocesan guidelines, the Parish Center must be contacted at least 6 months prior to your anticipated wedding date. Begin with number 1 in the "what to do" column.

### (At Least) Two months prior

Fill out and submit the Liturgical Planning Form through the St. Raphael website.

Liturgical Music: Contact the Musical Director, Darlene Kiniry to schedule a meeting. 412-441-4521 or [dkiniry@straphaelpgh.org](mailto:dkiniry@straphaelpgh.org)

You will be contacted by a wedding coordinator to finalize all details.