



# St. Andrew Catholic Church

1571 Southgate Avenue, Daly City, CA 94015 ☐ (650) 756-3223

Dear Parishioner,

Welcome to St. Andrew Catholic Church! We are pleased to have you plan your marriage with us. The Catholic Church takes marriage and family very seriously, and stands ready to support you in this commitment. The requirements for marriage in the Church are intended to strengthen and support the promises you will make, to give yourselves completely to each other for the rest of your lives.

## **Preparing for Marriage:**

1. **Schedule initial meeting with priest or deacon.** This should be done 8-12 months in advance of your proposed wedding date. Please do this before you book a reception hall, etc. This meeting is to get to know you, and to determine your freedom to marry. For the meeting, you will need to bring a recently-issued (dated within six months before the wedding) copy of your baptism certificate, with notations. To request a copy of your baptism record, contact the church where you were baptized. If one party is baptized in another Christian tradition, provide a letter attesting to the baptism.
2. **Schedule and take the FOCCUS inventory.** Do this after meeting with your priest or deacon, 6-9 months in advance of your wedding date. This is done at the parish where you intend to marry. FOCCUS is an inventory to show areas of agreement and possible concern over a wide range of topics related to your marriage. (*www.foccusinc.com*)
3. **Register and take a marriage preparation class.** This should be done at least 6 months before your scheduled wedding date. Your priest or deacon can help you choose the option best suited for you – a list of marriage preparation programs is available online: [www.sfarchdiocese.org](http://www.sfarchdiocese.org). The purpose of this requirement is to ensure adequate time for a couple to participate in and benefit from the marriage preparation process. If any problems or obstacles surface, this allows a couple more time to resolve the difficulties before their wedding.
  - Saturday for Engaged Couples - (415) 288-3800
  - Marriage for Life at St. Mary's Cathedral - (415) 664- 8108
  - Engaged Encounter – weekend retreat - (415) 664-1985
4. **Schedule and begin a class in Natural Family Planning.** This should be done 3-6 months in advance of your wedding date. This is optional, but strongly recommended;

couples who use natural family planning report a very high rate of marital satisfaction. More information is available online [www.sfarchdiocese.org](http://www.sfarchdiocese.org).

5. **Schedule and meet with a parish wedding coordinator** to discuss the wedding liturgy - music, readings, attendants.
6. **Secure a wedding license** from the city or county where the marriage will take place. Licenses are typically available the same day – you may need to make an appointment ahead of time.
7. **Schedule a final meeting with your priest** to discuss your marriage preparation experience, receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, and go over remaining details for the wedding liturgy.

To help defray overhead costs needed to run the Marriage Preparation Program, we ask for:

Church Donation (Suggested)	\$500.00
Registration Fee	\$100.00
Cleaning Fee	\$100.00
<b>Payable to St. Andrew Church</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>

Officiating Clergy	\$100.00
<b>Payable to Officiating Clergy</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

Should any difficulty arise as a result of the fees and donations mentioned above, please do not hesitate to discuss this matter with your priest or deacon.

We are happy for you and we look forward to begin this journey with you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Piers Lahey  
*Pastor*

*Revised 2017*