

## ***Who may be married at St. Raphael?***

Importance is always given to a couple getting married in their own community and couples are encouraged to marry in the parish community to which they belong.

## ***What about Previous Marriages?***

1. If you are a Catholic or baptized in the Catholic Church and were previously married in the Catholic Church, you must first obtain an annulment through the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, 872-8402, before beginning preparations for marriage.
2. If you are a Catholic or baptized Catholic and have a previous civil marriage you need to provide the official marriage license, official divorce decree, and complete a “Canonical Lack of Form” at the Rectory. Fee of \$25.00
3. If you are not Catholic nor have been baptized in the Catholic Church and had a previous marriage, you must be able to obtain an annulment through the Diocesan Tribunal.

*See Rectory for more information.*

## ***Marriage Preparation***

Diocesan policy states that each couple must contact the parish office, at least **six (6) months** in advance of the anticipated wedding date. During this time the couple is expected to provide the required forms and participate in marriage preparation. All couples must meet with a Priest or Deacon before the wedding date to determine the forth of preparation.

## ***Required Documents:***

1. Sacraments: a Roman Catholic must provide evidence of his/her Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. Updated and recent copies must be submitted to the office for your file. Those of other Christian denominations must also show proof of baptism.
  - a. Requirement of Confirmation may be waived by the pastor if it poses grave inconvenience.
2. Prenuptial Questionnaire: every couple is required to complete a personal information form.

3. Affidavit of Free Status: every couple needs two (2) witness each to complete and sign this form giving testimony that he/she is free to marry. This testimony is usually obtained from a parent or family member.
4. A valid Texas Marriage License must be obtained and given to the office at least 72 hours before your scheduled wedding.
5. Couples must participate in a Pre-Cana and Engaged Encounter or Cana II and Marriage Encounter

***Information on Engaged Encounter can be obtained at [www.cceelpasolascruces.org](http://www.cceelpasolascruces.org)***

6. All couples must take a (FOCCUS) Pre-Marital Assessment. The cost is \$35.00
7. Other Fees may apply

## ***Marriage Preparation Only***

1. All requirements must be met same as above.
2. See office for fees

## ***What if you are already married civilly?***

For couples who are having their civil marriage “validated”, the preparation and liturgy guidelines that apply to you are:

1. All necessary documents as listed above. Please bring your marriage license to the office so we can make a copy for your file.
2. If you have a previous marriage, the guidelines for Previous Marriages apply.
3. You will need to attend a marriage preparation as determined by the minister preparing you.

## ***Fees:***

1. See parish office for fees
2. Payment arrangements may be made with a deposit of \$50.00
3. A \$75.00 refundable cleaning fee will be charged and returned if church & premises are left clean.
4. You must come in to office for refund of cleaning fee after ceremony date.

## *Regarding the Ceremony*

There is a required fee for the use of the church building. This fee is to be paid in full or you may arrange payments with the rectory. Balance must be paid in full minimum one month prior to ceremony date. Cancellation of date and time without notice to the rectory will result in forfeiture of fee.

**Wedding music:** This list of musicians is provided at the Rectory. You must contact the musicians of your choice and pay their fee directly to them prior to the wedding. If you chose a musician outside of St. Raphael, you must receive prior approval by the Pastor.

**Photographers:** Appropriate attire is required. The photographer may not use the church as a studio after the wedding. The photographer must also stay in one place and no flash photography or video lighting at any time.

**Flowers:** No artificial flowers may be used. If real flowers are being presented in the church they must correspond to the color of season for the Catholic Church. If you choose to have a flower girl, she (or anyone) **may not** scatter flowers or flower petals, real or artificial in the Church or Parish Grounds.

**Candles:** No candelabras or arches of any kind are allowed anywhere in the church.

**No rice, flower petals, bubbles, or bird seed:** This is a waste and a hazard for walking and cleaning up. Please tell your family and friends.