

### Statements of Intent

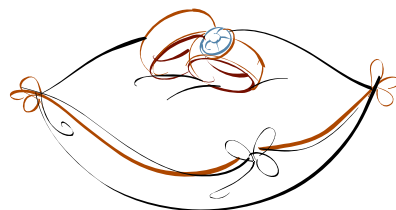
- Parish Minister: *(Bride's Name)* and *(Groom's name)*, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage? – Both Answer: **I have.**
- Will you honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?  
– Both Answer: **I will.**
- Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church? – Both Answer: **I will.**

### Consent (Vows)

- Parish Minister: Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.
- Groom: **I, *(groom's name)*, take you, *(bride's name)*, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.**
- Bride: **I, *(bride's name)*, take you, *(groom's name)*, to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.**

### Exchange of Rings

- Groom *(placing the wedding ring on his wife's ring finger)* says:  
*(bride's name)*, **take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**
- Bride *(placing the wedding ring on her husband's ring finger)* says:  
*(groom's name)*, **take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**



## *Preparing for and Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage*



*St. Philip the Apostle Parish  
Guidelines*

*(Revised September 5, 2013)*

*What a wonderful gift it is for a parish community to celebrate the love of a man and a woman in the Sacrament of Matrimony. In witnessing this love, the community is reminded of the love of Christ for His bride, the Church.*

*(Ephesians 5:22)*

~ INTRODUCTION ~

In ministering to the engaged couple, and in celebrating their wedding, the Church not only expresses its love and support for the couple, but acknowledges the value of their married life as a help to each other in attaining holiness and in becoming witnesses to the wider community. In forming a family, they become a domestic church. By word and example, they are the first heralds of the faith to their children.

In light of the seriousness of the vocation of Christian marriage, the Church has an obligation to do all that it can to preserve the dignity of marriage and offer its members the guidance and support, which will assist them in preparing for the life-long commitment of marriage.

Therefore, we rejoice with you as you prepare to enter into Holy Matrimony. You will be kept in our prayers, so when all seems hectic or even out of control, know that you are being remembered in prayer. We encourage you to do the same. Remember to pray. Attend Mass each week, frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation read and pray the Scriptures and remember the power of healing and comfort found in the rosary.

**Procedures for Christian Marriage Preparation**

***A Lifetime Commitment***

The parish community shall take responsibility for preparing couples not only for their wedding day, but for the lifetime commitment of living a Christian marriage.

***Minimum of Six Months of Preparation***

The formal preparation for marriage shall begin at least six months before the anticipated date of the wedding.

***Setting the Wedding Date***

No firm date for a wedding shall be set until the conclusion of the couple's first meeting with either the priest or permanent deacons of the parish. If, during the course of the meeting, the minister determines there was a previous marriage, no firm or even tentative wedding date shall be entered in the parish calendar until freedom to marry has been established through appropriate canonical procedures and documentation.

***Marriage Preparation Program***

In addition to individual sessions with the parish minister, which includes FOCCUS, couples will attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend and a Natural Family Planning class. The couple is encouraged to register for each of these ASAP.

**Parish Contacts:**

***Parish Office/  
Rector:*** 979-543-3770  
979-578-8831 fax  
apostle@stphilipapostle.org

***Music  
Coordinator:*** Janice Cox, 979-543-3770  
janice\_cox79@yahoo.com

***Art & Environment  
Committee:*** Lisa Bubela, 979-578-8400  
lbubela@warpspeed1.net

***Parish  
Coordinators:*** Janice Cox  
Lisa Bubela

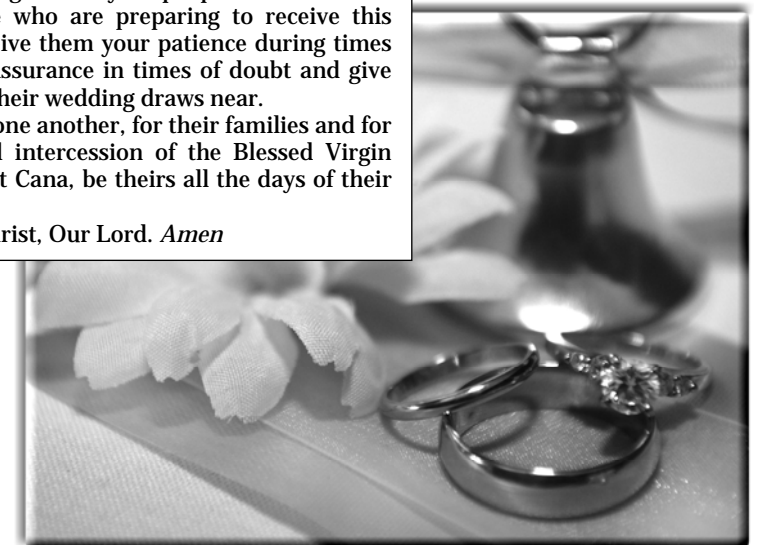
**Prayer for Engaged Couples**

Heavenly Father, in your great love you have established marriage as blessing and grace for your people.

Bless and assist those who are preparing to receive this wonderful sacrament. Give them your patience during times of stress. Give them reassurance in times of doubt and give them joy as the time of their wedding draws near.

Increase their love for one another, for their families and for You. May the prayerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the bridal guest at Cana, be theirs all the days of their lives.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. *Amen*



**St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church**

**~ Marriage Contact Information ~**

Clergy: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parish  
Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Music Information  
(organist, cantor, soloist):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Coordinator  
Information:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Things to do as soon as possible:**

- 1. Get Current Baptism Certificates (within 6 months)**
- 2. Have a witness fill out a Witness Affidavits of Freedom to Marry (2 per person)**
- 3. Register for Engaged Encounter**
  - a. [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)
    - i. <mouse over> Ministries → <click> Family Ministry
    - ii. <click> Engaged Encounter
  - b. [www.archgh.org](http://www.archgh.org)
    - i. <click each of the following>
    - ii. Ministries and Offices – Marriage, Family, and Seniors – Family Life – Programs – (on right) Marriage Preparation for Singles – (under Engaged Encounter) Registration Procedure – download and submit this registration form

\*\*\* NOTE: You will need the clergy’s recommendation on page 4 of form. \*\*\*

- 4. Register for Natural Family Planning**
  - a. Susanne Koch
    - i. (505) 710-0903 – OR – [susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto:susannekoch614@gmail.com)
    - ii. Holy Family in Wharton, TX
    - iii. Informative Class & 2 Follow-ups (suggested – 8)
  - b. David & Annie Coffey
    - i. [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com)
    - ii. Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Victoria, TX
    - iii. 3 Classes, approximately 2 hours each
      1. One class a month for 3 consecutive months



## MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS



1. Schedule the initial session with the priest and/or deacons of the parish. It is the responsibility of the couple to contact the priest and to schedule a date and time for all sessions.
2. Schedule the second session with the parish minister. Complete the FOCCUS program and register for the Engaged Encounter Weekend and NFP class, if you have not done so already.  
  
(FOCCUS is an acronym for *Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study*. FOCCUS explores basic expectations, communication and problem-solving skills and attitudes on money, children, religion, sexuality and in-laws. It is designed primarily to be a facilitative instrument, raising questions and identifying area(s) of concern for couples so that they can think about and discuss them. The *Engaged Encounter Weekend* focuses on the communication, spiritual and personal needs of engaged couples, as they prepare for the covenant of marriage. Presenting teams of married couples and a Catholic priest present a series of carefully prepared presentations. Couples are given the opportunity to question, examine, and deepen their relationship with one another and with God through personal reflection and couple's dialogue).
3. Schedule the third session with the parish minister to review the FOCCUS program results.
4. Schedule the fourth session with the parish minister. This session includes reviewing preparations for the liturgical celebration.

### **Scheduling the Wedding**

- Those of the faithful who are not parish members must have the written recommendation of their pastor, prior to scheduling a wedding at St. Philip the Apostle Parish.
- Weddings are **not** scheduled during the season of Lent, due to the season's penitential nature.
- Due to the scheduling for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Saturday evening Mass, a wedding is to be scheduled no later than 2:00 p.m. Saturday evening weddings are permitted after 7:00 p.m. (Photos for evening weddings are permitted between 2:00-3:45 p.m.).
- Once the wedding date has been entered into the parish calendar, contact the music coordinator for further instruction.
- In the event of a parish funeral, the couple will be contacted and all activities, photographs, decorating, etc. will be permitted after the funeral.

**Marriage License...**The marriage license must be given to the presider at the rehearsal.

**\*\* Please note:** A couple may get a marriage license within 30 days of their wedding, but they must obtain a marriage license at least 72 hours before the wedding. **\*\***



*Please return this page to the St. Philip Parish Office.*

*We acknowledge and agree to the terms of  
St. Philip the Apostle Parish  
Sacrament of Marriage Guidelines*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bride's signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Contact phone #*

*Date signed:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Groom's signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Contact phone #*

*Date signed:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Wedding Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Amount Paid:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Check #:* \_\_\_\_\_



 **DECORATIONS** 

- Brides should be mindful of the necessary modesty of dress appropriate for a sacred place and for sacred worship. This means when selecting the wedding gown and the bridesmaids' gowns, low-cut dresses or strapless gowns must be accompanied with a shawl or a wrap that is not see-through.
- Proper attire should be worn at the wedding & rehearsal by everyone involved in the liturgy. That means no shorts, halter tops, tank-tops or mid-drifts, baseball caps, torn jeans, sunglasses, flip-flops or other inappropriate attire.
- Cell phones and pagers must be turned off when inside the church.
- **NO** smoking, food or drink is to be brought inside the church or the Sacred Heart Meeting Room.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO** alcoholic beverages are permitted on church property; this includes the parking lot. Anyone in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave the property.
- **NO** concealed handguns or weapons are to be brought on church grounds.
- The Sacred Heart Room is available for the bride and bridal party to gather before the ceremony. This room is to be used only for putting on their dresses and waiting for the ceremony; it is not for putting on makeup and having their hair done. All items and trash should be removed immediately after the ceremony.
- The wedding coordinator is responsible for the removal of all wedding items from the church (this includes the groom's waiting room, balcony, restrooms, foyers, and pews) and the Sacred Heart Room immediately after the ceremony.

- Decorations may be placed throughout the church building, main altar, ambo, side altars and windows, not only in the area of the sanctuary. If flowers are used, the parish does not allow the use of artificial flowers in the church.
- No pins, tacks, nails, tape or glue may be used to attach any decorations to the furniture or walls of the church building.
- Any bows or ribbons placed on pews which are being reserved for specific family members/guests must be attached with pew clips. No additional decorations are allowed on any other pews.
- Floral arrangements are permitted in the sanctuary, but not on the altar itself. The arrangements should not impede the movement of the wedding party or of the ministers. Any free-standing decorations should not block the view of the ambo, the altar, the presider's chair, or the credence table.
- Church floral arrangements, if removed for the wedding, should be returned to their proper place after the wedding.
- If candles are used only church candles are permitted in the windows of the church. Contact the chairperson of the Art and Environment Committee to discuss details for renting church candles.
- No obstructive decorations should be in the center aisle, such as standing candles, arches or aisle runners.
- In order to facilitate the air-conditioning system in the church building, all entrance doors are to remain closed. Therefore, in order for the wedding guests to enter the church as quickly as possible, wedding guest registry books are not to be placed in the church.

 **WEDDING LITURGY** 

- The Music Selections for the wedding must be appropriate for liturgical use and expressive of the Christian vision of marriage. The distinction between “sacred” and “secular” can be obscure, often a fine line. Music facilitates prayer at a wedding liturgy and should be chosen so that it draws people into the sacred celebration and fosters their participation in a way that words alone cannot do. The music chosen should be as familiar as possible to those who have gathered. Mrs. Cox, the music director, will assist couples in selecting appropriate music for their wedding.
- The *Lord's Prayer* is the prayer of the whole assembly. According to the liturgical guidelines of the Church it is either recited or sung by the entire congregation. It is not to be sung as a solo.
- As stated above, music enhances the wedding celebration. Therefore, taped music is not to be used for a wedding liturgy.
- Fees for the organist, soloists, cantors, and instrumentalists are set by the individual musicians and should be discussed with them.

***Suggested Music Outline for the Liturgical Celebration***

*Prelude:* approximately three (3) songs or about 15 minutes before the liturgy

*Procession:* instrumental

*Gathering:* sung by assembly

*Gloria:* sung

*Psalm/Alleluia:* sung

*Presentation of the Gifts:* instrumental, solo or assembly

*Acclamations:* sung by the assembly

*Communion:* instrument, solo or assembly

*Recessional:* instrumental

Individuals who are involved in the wedding liturgy are integral to the celebration. When selecting those who would like to be involved in your wedding, the following should be considered:

- Ring and flower bearers should be old enough to comprehend the involvement of the liturgy. It should be noted that children below five (5) years old often have a difficult time in terms of their attention spans and their apprehension about performing in public. (No strollers, wagons, balloons, streamers, etc. are permitted)
- When selecting the number in the wedding party, couples are to take into consideration the limited space in the sanctuary.
- Lectors should be selected from those who have experience or the necessary background to publicly proclaim God’s Word.
- Altar servers and Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) are those who are currently involved in these ministries, and the EMHC is commissioned in his/her parish. If the person is an altar server in another parish, they **must** attend the rehearsal. An EMHC from another parish **must** arrive one hour before the wedding to receive instruction from the sacristan.
- The officiating priest or deacon must be notified by the couple well in advance of the ceremony if they intend to invite another priest or deacon to serve on the altar, or plan to have any non-Catholic clergy participate in the ceremony.
- A wedding coordinator is to be selected who is familiar with the Catholic tradition. The wedding coordinator **must** attend the rehearsal. As stated before, the wedding coordinator is responsible for the removal of all wedding items from the church (this includes the groom’s waiting room, balcony, restrooms, foyers, and pews) and the Sacred Heart Room immediately after the ceremony.
- Photographers and video operators must consult with the parish coordinator before the wedding celebration regarding guidelines and placement in the church.
- Decorators and florists must contact the parish coordinator regarding parish regulations.

 **THE WEDDING – ORDER OF WORSHIP** 

A Catholic Wedding takes place in the context of the Sacred Liturgy. It is part of the Church’s praise of God. During the Rite of Marriage, the Church seeks God’s blessings for the newlyweds and the couple professes their solemn vows to God and to each other. The Rite of Marriage may be celebrated within a **Wedding Liturgy** or within the **Nuptial Mass**. The Nuptial Mass is normally celebrated when both parties are practicing Catholics.

**The Wedding Liturgy**

Introductory Rite  
*Greeting and Opening Prayer*

Liturgy of the Word  
*First Reading (Old Testament)*  
*Psalm (sung)*  
*Second Reading (New Testament)*  
*Gospel Acclamation (sung)*  
*Gospel*  
*Homily*

Rite of Marriage  
*Statements of Intent*  
*Consent (Vows)*  
*Blessing and exchange of Rings*  
*General Intercessions*

Concluding Rite and Final Blessing  
*Our Father*  
*Nuptial Blessing and Dismissal*

**The Nuptial Mass**

Introductory Rite  
*Greeting and Opening Prayer*

Liturgy of the Word  
*First Reading (Old Testament)*  
*Psalm (sung)*  
*Second Reading (New Testament)*  
*Gospel Acclamation (sung)*  
*Gospel*  
*Homily*

Rite of Marriage  
*Statements of Intent*  
*Consent (Vows)*  
*Blessing and exchange of Rings*  
*General Intercessions*

Liturgy of the Eucharist  
*Presentation of Gifts*  
*Eucharistic Prayer*

Communion Rite  
*Our Father*  
*Nuptial Blessing*  
*Holy Communion*

Concluding Rite and Final Blessing

 **MUSIC** 

*The music at a wedding liturgy sets the tone for many levels of experience. It invites the assembly to participate with heart, mind, and spirit. Music is not simply a “nice touch” to the liturgy, but indeed draws the whole person into a spirit of celebration. This can happen through music with words as well as through instrumental music. Usually, both kinds of music are used in the wedding liturgy.*

- When the date for the wedding has been set, the couple should contact Janice Cox, Music Coordinator, for detailed information. Couples are encouraged to utilize the services of the parish musicians. A musician from outside the parish is permitted, but they are encouraged to contact Mrs. Cox for needed details concerning the liturgical celebration.
- Prelude music may include one or more vocal selections, which should serve to unite the thoughts of the assembly toward the sacrament which is about to be celebrated.
- For the processional, instrumental music is highly encouraged. A hymn which is festive and gives thanks to God is most appropriate as an opening hymn.
- It is recommended that the acclamations during a wedding Mass be sung. This includes the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and the Eucharistic Acclamations such as the Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Great Amen; and the Lamb of God.
- A cantor is utilized at wedding celebrations in the parish. The cantor's role has the liturgical purpose of “animating” or enlivening the assembly's singing in order to enhance worship. A cantor is different from a soloist, for a cantor prepares the psalmody as well as other liturgical acclamations. Parish cantors are available at request.
- A program printed specially for the wedding ceremony is suggested. This program contains the Order of Worship (*refer to The Wedding-Order of Worship section on the previous page*), as well as the musical parts to be sung by the assembly.