



Saint Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church

Dear Couple,

First of all, Congratulations! Your engagement and upcoming wedding are important to us at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church. We want to do all we can to support your decision and to help you prepare for this life changing Sacrament. Before completing the enclosed form, please review this letter. It addresses important and basic Christian issues that will help you keep the proper focus for your big day.

First Time Marriage? If you are getting married for the first time, we will do all we can to help by providing good preparation and instructions according to the Archdiocese of Atlanta Marriage Policies. If you have been previously married, you will be asked to present proper forms of annulment. Should you have questions about this, you can consult the priest or deacon who will perform your ceremony.

Why the church and not the courthouse? By seeking the blessing of the Catholic Church for the Sacrament of Marriage, you are telling God and all your guests that you believe and seek to practice the Catholic faith. If you have been away from the Church or do not take time for Sunday Mass and the Sacraments, we ask you to consider the reason for coming to the Catholic Church for your marriage. So, if you have not practiced your faith thus far, consider this a welcome invitation back to the parish of St. Stephen the Martyr. If you do attend Mass regularly, we encourage you to keep it up. It is true... a family (and couple) that prays together, stays together! It takes two to make a couple, but three to make a marriage! God is the third person! At the end of Mass you can introduce yourself to the priest or deacon you choose to perform your marriage ceremony.

Before you are married, please remember, you are not yet married. Should a couple decide to live together before marriage (cohabitate), marriage preparation has the responsibility to point out a few precautions on a spiritual and practical level. It is ironic, but even non-religious research shows that cohabitating couples are more likely to end in divorce.
(<http://nationalmarriageproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ShouldWeLiveTogether.pdf>).

Your engagement is meant to be a time of grace and growth in preparing for your marriage. Living chastely during your remaining months of engagement will teach you many things about one another. It will help you to grow in the virtues of generous love, sacrificial giving, self-restraint and good communication – virtues which are essential for a good and lasting marriage.

We want you to experience the full joy of married life – after the marriage day. Your marriage day should change the way you both live your life. This is your special time to grow as individuals in order to seriously prepare for a life together “until death do you part.”

KISS – Keep It Solemn & Simple:

Many people worry about all the plans, coordinating, and expenses of marriage. We are committed to help make this engagement period of time of peaceful preparation. By keeping your marriage and reception plans solemn and simple, you will gain a fuller understanding of marriage, and you will have the peace of mind to enjoy every second of it!

The experience of marriages at our church move us to share what we believe to be the true joys and struggles for married people today. We tell you these things because we care! We want you to have a life-long and beautiful marriage, and that requires a good preparation. After you've read these considerations, please talk these over with your fiancé. Then, together, complete the Marriage Information Form and return it to the parish office as soon as possible. We advise you not to make any arrangements at reception halls until you have received confirmation from the priest or deacon who will perform your ceremony.

Once again, congratulations and know of our prayers for you!

The Pastor, Deacons, and Staff
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
Lilburn, GA

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
MARRIAGE INFORMATION FORM

(Please Print)

Bride's Information:	Full Name: _____ Religion: _____
	Street Address: _____
	City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____
	Work Phone: _____ Email: _____
	What Church do you attend? _____ Registered Active Parishioner ? ☐ Yes ☐ No
	Were you previously married? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, when: _____ <i>If yes, you will be asked to provide proper documents of annulment and /or divorce.</i>

Groom's Information:	Full Name: _____ Religion: _____
	Street Address: _____
	City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Phone: _____
	Work Phone: _____ Email: _____
	What Church do you attend? _____ Registered Active Parishioner ? ☐ Yes ☐ No
	Were you previously married? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, when: _____ <i>If yes, you will be asked to provide proper documents of annulment and /or divorce.</i>

About Your Marriage:	Important! Do Not schedule a banquet hall until you personally meet with a priest or deacon who will perform the marriage ritual. However, please provide the information below for scheduling purposes.
	Do you want a ceremony or Mass? _____ Name of Celebrant: _____
	What date are you requesting? _____
	Check the time you prefer: ☐ Saturday 11am ☐ Saturday 2pm ☐ _____
	Please state any alternate date you are requesting: _____
	Check the time you prefer: ☐ Saturday 11am ☐ Saturday 2pm ☐ _____
Please provide the rehearsal date and time you are requesting: _____ <i>(Rehearsals are allotted one hour)</i>	

<i>Please fill in the above information and return it as soon as possible to:</i> St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church 5373 Wydella Road SW Lilburn, GA 30047 <i>Please call back at 770-381-7488 if not contacted in five business days.</i>	For office use only: Date Received: _____ Given to: _____ Date: _____ Church Confirmed for Dates Indicated: _____ Choice of Marriage Prep: _____ Notes: _____
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