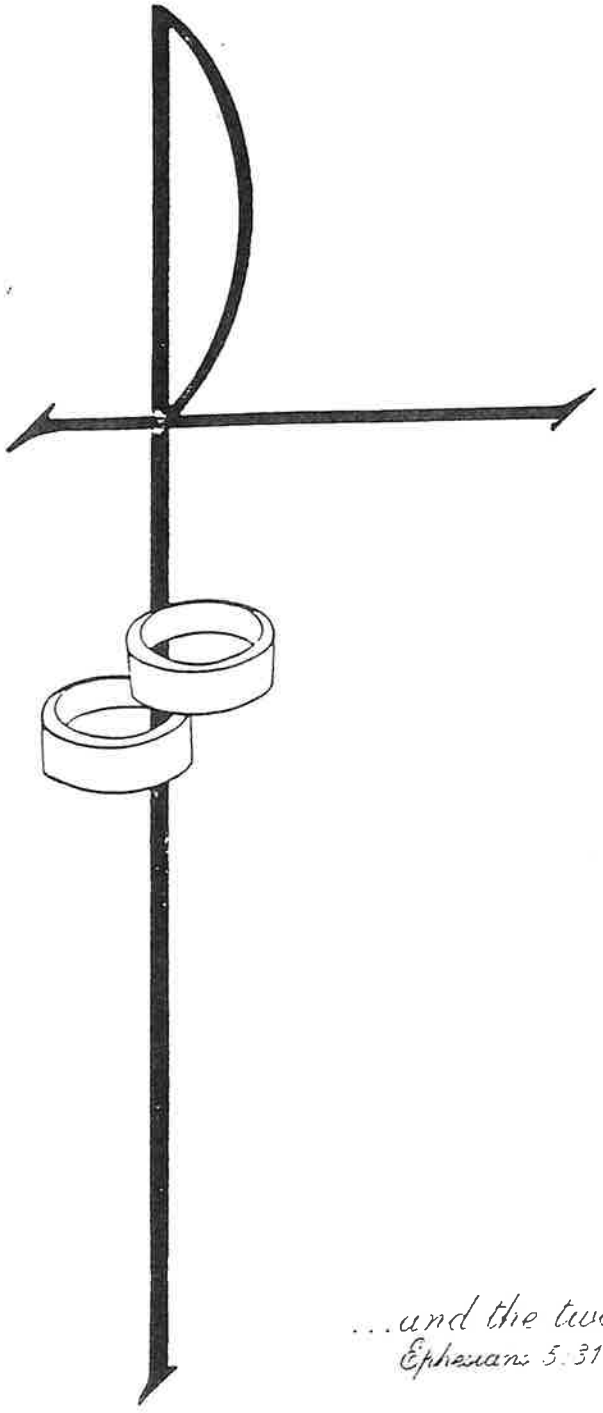
St. Robert's Church



...and the two shall become one
Ephesians 5:31

1380 CRYSTAL SPRINGS ROAD - SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA 94066 - (650) 589-2800

SAINT ROBERT'S CHURCH

MARRIAGE PREPARATION BROCHURE

Welcome to St. Robert's Marriage Preparation Program. This brochure should answer many of the questions you will have relating to your wedding celebration. As we begin this journey together, we make this prayer for you:

God our Father, You created man and woman to love each other in the bond of marriage. Bless and strengthen this couple. May their marriage become an increasingly more perfect sign of the union between Christ and His Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Required Documents: "**Form A**" is filled out at the initial meeting with the priest or deacon. "**Form B**", a witness form, requires someone who's known the bride or groom for a long time to testify about their freedom to marry. Catholics must obtain a ***new*** copy of their **Baptismal Certificate** (issued within the last six months) from the church of their Baptism. Other baptized Christians are asked to bring a copy of their Baptismal Certificate as well. There may be other documents required as well, but the priest or deacon will explain what is needed in your particular case. Finally, a valid **California Marriage License** must be obtained from a county government office. This license is valid for ninety (90) days.

FOCCUS is an instrument which assists the couple in communication about many of the aspects of married life. After filling out the survey with the priest or deacon, the couple meets with him later to discuss their responses with each other.

Marriage Preparation Program:

Engaged Encounter: This is a weekend-long gathering with many other engaged couples. To arrange for a place on the Engaged Encounter Weekend, call (415) 664-1985 or obtain a brochure from the Rectory. On the internet: www.sfcee.org ---OR---

One Day: Vallombrosa Center (650) 325-5614

Menlo Park info@vallombrosa.org

--or—

Marriage for Life, San Francisco (415) 664-8108

Planning the Marriage Ceremony: After completing the Marriage Preparation Program, the couple meets with the priest or deacon to ensure that all necessary documents are ready and to plan the ceremony itself. They are encouraged to make the Marriage Ceremony as personal as possible within guidelines of the Church's liturgy, by choosing the Scripture readings from a booklet which contains various options for the ceremony. The booklet "Together for Life" may be obtained at no cost from the rectory.

The Time and Form of the Ceremony: Marriages are held on Saturdays at 10:00 am, 12 Noon, and 2:00pm and the time is arranged by the consulting Priest or Deacon. **The date which is set for your marriage will be held on a tentative basis until the Marriage Preparation Program has been completed.** When the necessary preparations are completed, the date and time will then become firm.

Ordinarily, two Catholics are married at a Nuptial Mass. However, if one party is Catholic, a simple ceremony without Mass can be arranged. (This is usually desired when a large number of guests are not Catholic).

Catholics are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) sometime soon before receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Marriage License: The marriage license from a County Clerk must be presented to the Priest at the rehearsal.

Rehearsal: Rehearsals usually are the Thursday night before the wedding. The Priest or Deacon should be consulted before the rehearsal for any exceptional arrangements. Remember to bring with you to the rehearsal: marriage license, church offering, unity candle, and liturgy plans for your ceremony.

Anticipated Expenses:

Music Director	$200
Cantor (Singer)	$200
Priest	$200
Church Donation	$400

Music: **All arrangements for music must be made with the Parish Director of Music**, who will assist you in choosing music and songs. The Parish Director of Music has the first right of refusal for all weddings. Outside musicians and recorded music are not permitted. Be sure to contact the parish Music Director as soon as possible. He will answer any questions and help you plan a memorable wedding. The Music Director can also arrange for a Cantor.

Floral Arrangements: Your florist must provide their own flower containers. You may take your flowers with you after the wedding or you may leave them in the church for the weekend Masses in your honor.

Pew Decorations: You, your friends, family, or florist may decorate the ends of the pews with floral and ribbons. Be sure decorations will NOT disrupt those receiving communion. Please do not use any fasteners that will damage the wood. If you wish to save these decorations, please assign someone to disassemble them immediately following the wedding, otherwise they will be discarded.

Unity Candle: The unity candle is a beautiful part of the ceremony which has become more popular with wedding couples. It involves the designated persons who light two side candles before the ceremony begins. The couples, after the exchange of rings, takes the light from the two side candles and together light the one center candle, signifying unity.

Photography and Videographer: ALL photographers and videographers must use discretion and make sure they are not a disturbance to the wedding ceremony.

Flash Photography: Photographs may be taken as the procession enters the church and as the wedding party leaves. Flash pictures may not be taken during the ceremony. Afterwards, the church may be used for photographs, but for no longer than 1-1/2 hours from the scheduled start of the wedding, e.g. A 2:00pm wedding allows the use of the church only until 3:30 pm. On the night of the rehearsal, the business card of the photographer should be given to the Priest. Please tell the photographer that the Church is a holy place and that all poses for pictures should take this into account. If the photographer abuses the privilege of using the Church by overstaying the allotted time or by not following the other rules, he/she will not be allowed to photograph at St. Robert's in the future. The Priest will ask the photographer to leave the church if policy is violated.

Professional videotaping of the ceremony is permissible, but the videographer must be located behind the presiding chair of the priest and on the same level as the priest. The camera must be stationary. Again, the business card of the person must be given to the priest on the night of rehearsal, and any misuse of this privilege will result in the person not being allowed to make videos in the Church in the future. No lights are permitted.

Photography note: Photographer and Videographers are not to move around Church once the wedding couple has reached the Sanctuary.

Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, Rose Petals: For safety and church cleanliness, these items are strictly prohibited on Church grounds and within the Church itself.

Traditions and Special Arrangements: Please discuss any special arrangements or ethnic traditions with your assigned priest or deacon well in advance of the wedding.

Ceremony Checklist:

_____ Together for Life booklet. Choose Scripture readings and give your selections to the Celebrant (Priest or Deacon) at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

_____ Make sure all required documents have been turned in to the Priest or Deacon

_____ If you are preparing a program (not required), please get approval from the Priest or Deacon prior to printing.

_____ Arrange music with Parish Music Director.

_____ Arrange rehearsal date and time a few months before Ceremony.

Night of Rehearsal:

_____ Marriage License – Bring to rehearsal

_____ Unity Candle and/or any special items to be used during the Liturgy- bring to rehearsal.

_____ Please have all members of the wedding party and any other persons who will have a part in the Ceremony to attend the rehearsal.

_____ Fees:

Music Director	$200
Cantor/Singer	$200
Priest:	$200
Church	$400