



*Everything Except Choosing Your Groom*

## **Orthodox Engagement Service**

In the Orthodox tradition, when two people decide to be engaged, they buy their wedding rings to make their engagement announcement, they invite their relatives and friends and also the priest.

At a small table, two candles are lit and the priest blesses the rings by reading some special prayers and gives the rings to the couple and they pass their rings to each other by expressing their feelings to each other. The service is concluded by words of congratulation of the priest.

The engagement service before the wedding, is different then this one. The newly engaged couple put the rings on their left hand on this service. At the service prior the wedding the Koumbaros or koumbara puts them in the right hand. Married orthodox people around the world keep their wedding bands, rings on the right hand and not on the left.

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