



Marriage Preparation Process

INITIAL MEETING WITH PRIEST

To begin the Marriage Preparation Process, please schedule an initial meeting with a priest by contacting the Pastoral Administrative Assistant to Clergy and bring a recent photo of yourselves to the meeting.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Gather all the necessary documentation as soon as possible, referring to *Required Documentation* on page 10 of this Marriage Planning Brochure. At your initial meeting with the priest, you will be advised of any additional required paperwork.

FOCCUS

Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study (FOCCUS) is a self-diagnostic inventory to help you target and work through issues important to marriage such as parenting, dual-career marriages, lifestyle expectations, extended family, and values. The priest assisting you with marriage preparation will assign a FOCCUS couple from the parish to guide you through the entire inventory process. This couple will administer the FOCCUS survey, review the survey results, and provide direction for discussion of any indicated differences. Meetings will require your undivided attention and personal topics may be discussed, so children, family members, or friends are not allowed to attend.

MARRIAGE RETREAT

The Pre Cana Seminar or an Engaged Couples Weekend focuses on family, the influences of our family of origin, and the skills needed to maintain a successful marriage.

Pre Cana is offered as an all-day seminar or as 3 evening sessions including the following:

- Faith enrichment deepening the understanding of sacrament and covenant as the foundation of marriage.
- Communicating skills: active listening, constructive conflict resolution and decision making techniques.
- Financial management: budgeting, savings, credit management and goal setting.
- Responsible parenting: focusing on recognizing styles of parenting and the importance of learning skills through parenting classes and resources in the community.
- Recognizing healthy and unhealthy relationships: couples are provided with resources and information for assistance, if needed.
- Self awareness, human sexuality and natural family planning.

Engaged Couples Weekend is a weekend program which covers the Pre Cana topics. In addition, couples learn a reflection and dialogue process, have an opportunity to practice these skills and also interact with other couples who share the same values.

Remarriage Preparation is required when there is a previous marriage (even if an annulment has occurred) or there are children from a past relationship. This program covers the Pre Cana topics as well as blended family issues and step-parenting. The importance of positive co-parenting is also discussed.

SCHEDULING A DATE

Once the FOCCUS inventory and Pre Cana have been completed in their entirety, you should contact the Director of Worship to schedule your wedding and rehearsal dates and times. Please refer to the General Information on page 8 of this Wedding Planning Brochure for more specific information.

MEET WITH PRIEST

Follow-up meeting(s) will be scheduled with the priest preparing you for marriage. Please contact the Pastoral Administrative Assistant to Clergy for an appointment.

PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

Approximately six weeks prior to your wedding date, you will be contacted by the Director of Music to discuss music and readings for your liturgy. Before meeting with the Director of Music, please take time to review pages 16-21 of the Wedding Planning Brochure.

MEET WITH FLORIST/PHOTOGRAPHER

Included in the Wedding Planning Brochure are Guidelines for Photographers and Guidelines for Decorating. These should be given to the florist and photographer/videographer in advance of the wedding date so there is a clear understanding of the policies and expectations before, during and after the wedding ceremony. Please also review pages 22-23 of the Wedding Planning Brochure.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Rehearsals will begin promptly at the specified rehearsal time. In addition to reminding the wedding party to be on time, please remember to bring your wedding license and any other applicable items needed for the wedding day (unity candle, lasso, arras, etc.). Please review the Parish Wedding Policies beginning on page 12 of the Wedding Planning Brochure.