

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CHURCH

Your time of preparing for marriage should also be a time of deepening your relationship with God especially through daily prayer and regular participation in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. This will prove to be the firm foundation of your married life. All of the elements of our wedding preparation process build off of this foundation and will make sense only in its context. The specific ways in which you are asked to prepare for Marriage are listed here in order:

- Set up a first meeting with a priest or deacon at the parish. *You will discuss the Sacrament of Marriage in a broad way and will be given what you need to continue your marriage preparation.* We strongly recommend that you not book a reception hall or enter into other contractual agreements regarding your wedding until your wedding date can be confirmed by the presider of your wedding. It should be understood that the date is tentative until successful completion of marriage preparation.
- Separately respond to the questions on the “Couple’s Insert for the M-1 Form” with truthful and substantial answers and return these answers to the priest.
- After being assigned a mentor couple, go through the “Fully Engaged” inventory and program with their help.
- Attend a natural family planning (NFP) course either online or in-person. The Center for the New Evangelization (<https://www.centerforthenewevangelization.org/marriage-family/natural-family-planning>) lists various options for completing this:
 - Couple to Couple League (<https://ccli.org/>)
Provides classes led by local volunteer couples who have learned and lived NFP.
 - FertilityCare Centers of America (<https://www.fertilitycare.org/>)
Teaches the Creighton Model of charting the woman’s fertility cycle. The website will direct you to contact a local center.
 - BOMA-USA (<https://www.boma-usa.org/>)
Teaches the Billings-Ovulation Method. The website will help you set up a meeting with a qualified teacher.
 - MUCN-INFP (<https://www.marquettethod.com/>)
Teaches the Marquette method. The website will connect you with a teacher.
- Schedule a second meeting with the priest/deacon. *This should take place after having completed your “Couple’s Insert” and at least started the “Fully Engaged” program.*
- Speak to music director five months prior to the wedding.
 - You may find and contact the director on our parish website, or ask at the office.
 - If you will make use of parish musicians, the director will help you line this up.
 - If you will be bringing in your own musicians, the director will review music selection and will be in contact with the musicians about relevant details.
- Schedule a final meeting with the priest/deacon, about a month from the wedding, to review the details of the wedding. You should know what readings you intend to use.
- Obtain a marriage license and bring this to the priest/deacon no later than the rehearsal. *The marriage cannot proceed without a license from the state of Ohio.* If you live out of state and are being married at St. Ignatius, apply for a license in Hamilton County.
- Make a good Confession to prepare yourself spiritually to begin this new stage in life.