

Marriage Preparation at St. John the Apostle

Catholic marriage preparation is a focused period of time in which the parish community assists the engaged couple to examine their readiness for lifelong marriage. The marriage preparation program will provide instruction and the opportunity for couple interaction and reflection. It is meant to assist the couple in affirming their desire and decision for marriage, increase awareness of their expectations for lifelong marriage and family life together, and embracing the positive demands of Catholic sacramental marriage.

Following is an outline of the steps necessary to seeking marriage in the Catholic Church.

1. Contact St. John the Apostle Parish at 630-279-7404

Contact and meet with your parish priest or deacon as soon as you become engaged or at least six months before proposed wedding date.

At this meeting you will:

- Complete the church pre-nuptial forms to determine freedom to marry
- Set and/or confirm the wedding date
- Make arrangements to complete the marriage preparation program required by the parish.
- Acquire baptismal certificates and other necessary documents

2. Choose and complete a Marriage Preparation Program outlined by your parish

The church requires you to begin your marriage preparation at least six months before your wedding date. During this time of preparation you and your fiancé will be given the opportunity to focus on your relationship readiness, skills and expectations for lifelong marriage, and understanding Catholic marriage as a sacrament.

As part of the marriage preparation process, you will complete a pre-marriage inventory (FOCCUS) and participate in a seminar style workshop or a series of meetings with the Marriage Preparation team.

3. Plan the Wedding Liturgy

Meet with your parish priest or deacon to plan the liturgy for your wedding ceremony.

- Marriage between two Catholics is normally celebrated within Mass
- Marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic may be celebrated inside or outside the Mass
- Marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person is celebrated within the Liturgy of the Word

4. Obtain Marriage License

A marriage license is issued immediately and becomes effective 24 hours later. The license is valid for 60 days. A license issued in DuPage County CANNOT be used in any other County or State. Both parties MUST appear at the DuPage County Clerk's office, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187 and present proof of age and proper identification and a license fee of \$35.00. The fee of \$35.00 can be paid in cash, check or by credit card for a \$1.00 fee.

5. Schedule Rehearsal