

*Preparing
For the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony
In the Archdiocese of Denver*



"Christians celebrate the sacrament of marriage because they know they need it!

*Why? They do so because they need to,
for the long journey they are making together;
it is a long journey, not for a brief spell but for an entire life!"*

Pope Francis



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT! WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Call the Parish Office

(8-12 months before the wedding)

Call as soon as you get engaged! A member of the parish staff will schedule a meeting with you to discuss your wedding preparations as soon as possible.

St. John the Baptist (970) 587-2879

St. Nicholas (970) 785-2143

2. Meet with Father or Deacon

(8-12 months before the wedding)

At this meeting, you'll learn about the preparation process for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, begin completing the necessary paperwork for your marriage, and set your tentative wedding date.

3. FOCCUS Inventory

(7-8 months before the wedding)

The FOCCUS Inventory provides you with a personalized profile of your relationship. Your FOCCUS inventory session will be set up at the initial meeting and, upon completion, you will meet with the Deacon to review your results. These sessions aim to facilitate communication between you and your future spouse.



4. Marriage Prep Program

(6 months before the wedding)

Various programs are available within the Archdiocese, all of which focus on the theology of Catholic marriage as well as important life skills. At the initial meeting you'll receive information on the programs available and help identifying a prep program that best fits your needs.

5. Natural Family Planning Instruction

(6 months before the wedding)

NFP respects the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, and enriches the bond between husband and wife. This instruction gives couples a natural approach to understanding the woman's cycles of fertility and infertility. You will receive a list of available classes at the initial meeting.

6. Final Meeting with Father or Deacon

(1-2 months before the wedding)

This meeting will review your previous preparation, complete all of your paperwork, and begin to plan your wedding liturgy. You're getting close to celebrating this beautiful sacrament!

7. Sacrament of Reconciliation

(1 week before the wedding)

Catholics preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation and the Eucharist are invaluable sources of grace and healing. Celebrate this sacrament with your spouse-to-be!



Commonly asked questions

1. What sacraments are required for a Catholic to receive the sacrament of Matrimony?

A Catholic must have completed the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Certificates documenting reception of these sacraments will be collected as part of the paperwork requirements. If you are in need of these sacraments, arrangements to receive them will be made as part of the preparatory process.

2. What if we are already married civilly or by common law?

Couples already married by a judge or by common law may receive the sacrament of matrimony. The Church calls this “convalidation”. A convalidation can be a traditional wedding ceremony with a formal reception or it can be a very simple ceremony celebrated in the presence of a few friends and family. The preparatory requirements for convalidation may be different and are determined on a case by case basis by the pastor.

3. What if one or both are have been previously married and divorced?

Individuals seeking the sacrament of marriage who have been previously married and divorced are required to go through a process called “annulment”. If applicable, Father or Deacon will review the requirements for this at the initial meeting with the couple.

4. Can a Catholic marry a non-Catholic?

Yes, with special permission. This will be discussed during the preparatory meetings.

5. Can a Catholic marry a non-Christian?

Yes, with a special dispensation. This is also discussed during the preparatory meetings.