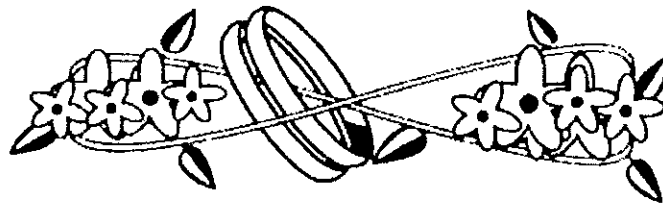


St. Joseph Catholic Church
The Celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony



St. Joseph Catholic Church
1406 E. Washington St.
Louisville, KY 40206

(502) 583-7401 Tel.
(502) 589-7465 Fax.

Rev. David Sánchez
Pastor
dsanchez@sjosephcatholic.org

As you begin your preparation for the sacrament of Matrimony, the parish community at St. Joseph Catholic Church rejoices with you and offers you our sincere prayers and support. The commitment of lifelong love and fidelity which you undertake in marriage is a powerful sign of your faith in God and in each other. The following guidelines are intended to help you plan your wedding ceremony. They are to be read in conjunction with the Archdiocesan Policy which they supplement.

Who may be married at St. Joseph Catholic Church?

Members of the Parish

A Catholic person registered and participating members' children of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Any person over the age of 18 and living on their own should be registered independently as a member.

Engaged couples, who are registered parishioners, should contact the Pastor by e-mail: dsanchez@sjosephcatholic.org to make an appointment.

Non-members of the Parish

Any non-parishioner Catholic that follows St. Joseph Catholic Church marriage guidelines.

A delegation letter from your Pastor will be necessary, before setting a wedding date in the parish calendar. Please be sure that one party is registered in a Catholic Church. If you are not registered in a Catholic Church, you will need a delegation letter from the pastor of the Catholic Church closer to your residence.

Engaged couples, who are not registered parishioners, should contact the Pastor by e-mail: dsanchez@sjosephcatholic.org to make an appointment.

The date cannot be secured until the first meeting with the Pastor, and the parties' freedom to marry being established.

Any non-parishioner couple should bring \$100.00 deposit for the first interview. It will be credited to the final stewardship. If the couple fills all the documentation (MA's), and decide to get married in another church, the deposit will be kept for the cost of materials given to the couple at the first interview.

Marriage Preparation

It is required for those planning marriage to contact the Pastor by e-mail at dsanchez@sjosephcatholic.org, at least six (6) months in advance, following the archdiocese's directives; all couples are required to receive pre-marriage instructions. Various options are available, details of which are to be discussed.

FOCCUS (personality inventory test) will be taken by the couple and discussed with the priest prior to the wedding.

The bride and groom will request a copy of their baptismal certificates from the church where they were baptized, and the church will send the **original** copy by mail to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1406 E. Washington St. Louisville, KY 40206.

If one of the parties has received an annulment, he or she should bring a copy of the decree to the pastor to be filed for the wedding file, as the divorce papers.

If a couple would like to validate a civil marriage in the church, a marriage preparation will be required. Please bring copy of marriage certificate.

The bride and groom's father or mother will schedule an appointment with the parish office to sign the MB's documents. Please be sure to call the parish office first, (502) 583-7401.

Liturgy of the Ceremony

The Marriage Rite

1. Marriage is a sacrament of the Church.
2. The Rite of Marriage is an act of worship on the part of the couple and their guests who come to ask God's blessing on the couple's life together.
3. The center of the Rite of Marriage is the solemn exchange of vows by the couple.
4. **Lectors**
You are strongly encouraged to select an experienced reader from among your relatives and friends to read the Scripture Lessons and to lead the General Intercessions.
5. **Eucharistic Ministers**
You may ask relatives and friends who are commissioned as Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers in any parish to serve as Ministers of Communion at your wedding. The priest will help you in determining how many you will need.

Eucharistic ministers are responsible for consuming the remaining species and purifying the sacred vessels (i.e. rinsing with water and consuming that water). They then wash the purified vessels in soap and water, dry, and return the sacred vessels to the sacristy cabinet.

Celebrants

The normal celebrants of a wedding are the bride and the groom. The witness of the wedding within the Mass is the priest. The normal witness outside the Mass is the priest or a deacon. St. Joseph's pastor is the main celebrant at St. Joseph's weddings.

Concelebrants

A visiting priest or deacon may witness a wedding at St. Joseph Catholic Church, if he is properly qualified according to both civil and Church law. Please advise the parish priest if you plan to invite another priest or deacon to witness at the wedding. The visiting priest and/or deacon are asked to adhere to the Regulations and Guidelines of St. Joseph Catholic Church. A concelebrant can read the gospel and preach. The main celebrant will witness the vows.

Ecumenical Marriage

For couples who enter an ecumenical marriage, we welcome, indeed encourage, the minister of the non-Catholic party to take part in the ceremony, if you wish. In the spirit of Ecumenism, it's highly recommended that the solemn exchange of the Matrimony's vows does not include the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, but is celebrated in the context of the Liturgy of the Word. The non-Catholic minister will be invited to read the first or second reading.

Wedding Times

No more than one wedding will be scheduled on each weekend. Weddings may be scheduled on Friday evening or any weeknight no later than 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, weddings may be scheduled no later than 1:00 p.m. Weddings can be celebrated in the context of Sunday Vigil Mass (Saturday Evening) after 6:30 p.m.

No wedding will be scheduled at St. Joseph Catholic Church the week of and the week following the Feast of Christmas and the Feast of Easter. No weddings will be celebrated during the season of Advent.

No wedding will be scheduled at St. Joseph on major civil or religious holidays, Parish Fund Raisers (Memorial Weekend, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Summer Picnic, Oktoberfest, etc.)

Couple's Church Stewardship

The fee for use of the Church is \$550 for members, \$850 if members less than 2 years, and \$1050 for non-members. This fee is due within 30 days of placing the date on the parish calendar.

Payment should be made out to St. Joseph Catholic Church (1406 E. Washington St. Louisville, KY 40206). The fee includes the use of the church for rehearsal and the wedding (1 hour before wedding time, and half hour after). Not included in this fee: the cost of musicians, florist, decorators, photographers, videographers, servers, room for preparation, etc.

There is no established offering for the priest or deacon officiating at your wedding; a monetary gift is always appropriate and appreciated for the priest witness.

Refund Policy

In the event of a cancellation, if it is more than 6 months, 80% will be refundable. If it is less than 6 months, 20% will be refundable.

Music/Organists

All music and ceremonies should reflect the reverence and dignity of the occasion, intensifying and enhancing the Christian meaning of the liturgical service. No recorded music is to be used in the ceremony, or before. "The best source for the selection of the music is the parish hymnal. Secular music (songs not composed for the liturgy) is not an appropriate choice for any liturgy, including the wedding liturgy. These songs do not meet the criteria in content, intention, or ability for participation" (Marriage in the Church, see pages 3-11). Such secular music is more fitting for moments at the dinner rehearsal or reception. The parish organist, pianist and cantors are the only authorized musicians for St. Joseph's weddings. If you would like to bring other instrumentalists you should inform it to our organist. Selection of songs and instruments to be used at the wedding must be done in consultation with Mr. Wil Wilder; e-mail: wwilder@sjosephcatholic.org. Please contact Mr. Wil Wilder after the first meeting with the Pastor. Musicians' fees are to be discussed with the musicians.

Rice, confetti, etc.

Because it is a safety issue, the throwing of rice, confetti, potpourri, birdseed, flower petals, balloons, bubbles, etc., inside or outside of the Church property is prohibited. This custom, non-Christian in origin, is not appropriate for the Catholic celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Photographer and Videographer

In honor of the sacredness of the Rite of Matrimony and the couple, photographers and videographers are to be as inconspicuous and as professional as possible.

You may have the ceremony videotaped, but the videographer must use only the available light in Church, no floodlights are allowed.

All cameras and video cameras must be stationary at one of the designed places in the Church (Please see diagram 1).

The church is available for picture-taking 2 hours prior to the ceremony (except Saturday's evening). A limited time of 30 minutes is allowed after the ceremony. We ask that as many pictures as possible be taken before the liturgy.

Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is to be scheduled through the parish office at a time mutually agreeable to the celebrant and engaged couple. It is expected that wedding participants will be prompt so that the rehearsal can begin on time, especially since other rehearsals are often scheduled. The rehearsal should take less than an hour if everyone is on time.

The liturgical celebration is conducted by the priest or deacon. If a wedding consultant/planner are employed, they have nothing to do at the Church.

Readers should practice before the rehearsal and at rehearsal.

Musicians are not necessary for the rehearsal. They rehearse at other times.

Before the Ceremony

Due to the seriousness of the event (Canon Law governing marriage), absolutely no drinking of alcohol or taking of drugs will be tolerated before or during the rehearsal, as well as, before or during the wedding. Anyone, believed by the minister, to have engaged in such behavior will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony --this includes the bride and the groom.

Changing Room

The parish hall and school are available for preparation before the wedding. Please call the parish office for details (502) 583-7401. A fee applied.

The Reconciliation Room is **not** to be used.

After the Ceremony

The bridal couple is responsible for arranging that the sanctuary be left clean and in order immediately after the wedding. This means planning ahead for someone to assume this responsibility. Give the name and telephone number to the Wedding Coordinator at the wedding rehearsal.

Any spilled candle wax is to be removed; especially from the carpeting (using paper towel and hot iron is most effective).

Parish Hall

The parish hall is available for receptions. Please call the parish office for details (502) 583-7401. Note: To bring alcohol to the parish hall is prohibited.

The Appendix

Maturity of Participants

Maturity (age) of those participating in the wedding party, i.e. flower girl/ring bearer, should be over 5 years old. While it may be nice to involve young children, the wedding couple is the focus. Children will be children. Such has often proven a challenge and a distraction to the celebration. Please weigh this seriously.

If one can't walk and sit independently in the pew and stand attentively at the front of the sanctuary, he/she needs to be immediately met and taken by a guardian.

Decorations

Couples planning to be married at St. Joseph should take into consideration the liturgical season when choosing their wedding date. The decorations of the sanctuary are to remain in place, during the wedding. The sanctuary is available for decorating 1 hour prior to the ceremony.

Do not allow anyone to use glue, scotch tape, nails, staples or anything that might leave residue or mark the finish of altars or pews. It is preferable to use rubber bands or string if it is necessary to hold decorations in place.

(All window, aisle and outside decorations used for the wedding must be removed after the ceremony.)

Florist

Arrangements are to be made with the florist or decorator of your choice. It may be to your advantage to check to see if any other weddings are scheduled for the same weekend and if it would be possible to share the expense.

No floral arrangements or candles are to be placed on the Altar of Sacrifice and the area around it should not be cluttered with plants, etc.

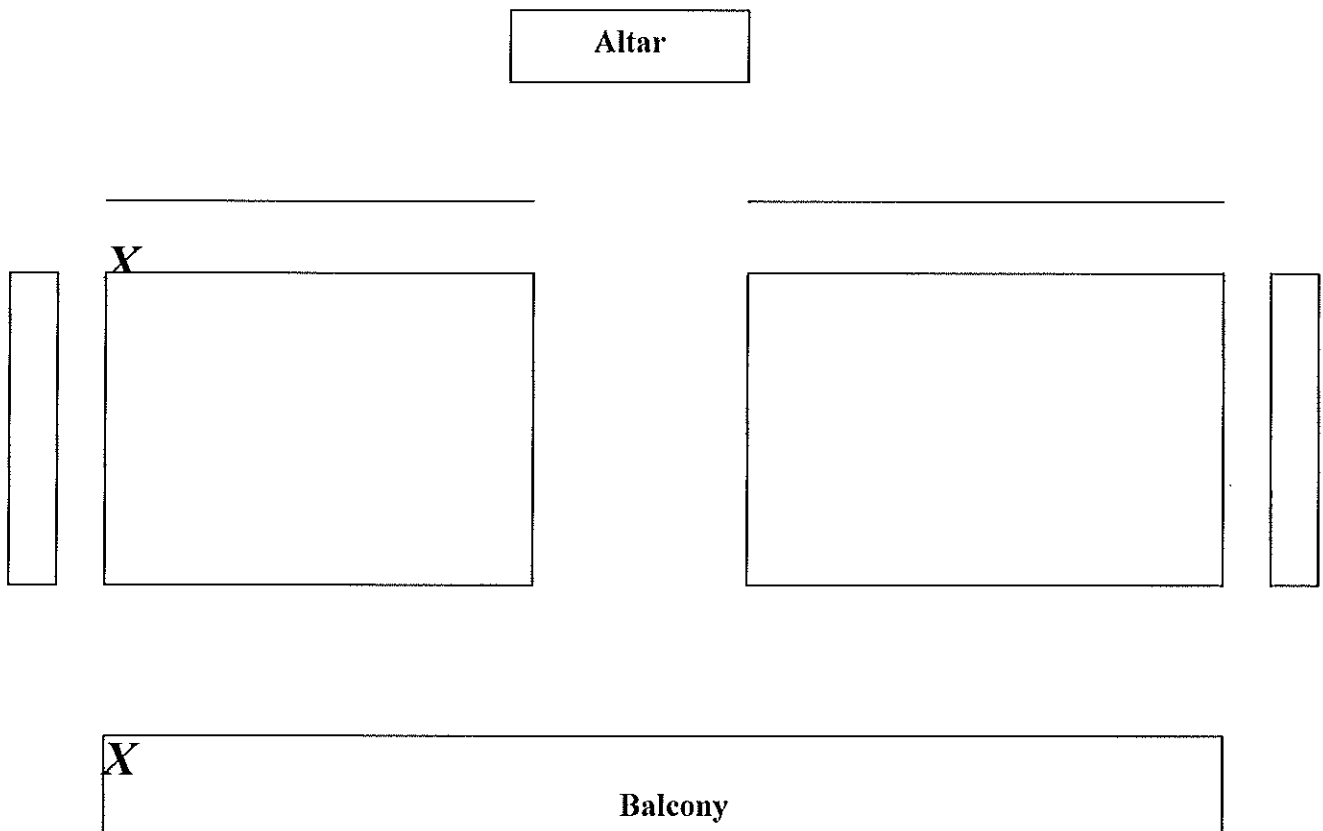
Live plants are to be handled with care and kept away from the candle flames. According to the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of Louisville, "Only natural flowers and plants are to be used." Therefore, no silk or plastic flowers are to be used in the sanctuary at any time.

Here at St. Joseph Catholic Church, we encourage the couple to donate two flower arrangements for the weekend liturgy to honor the newly married couple. A floor arrangement placed in front of the Altar of Sacrifice is suggested. Nothing is placed on the Altar.

Aisle Runner We discourage the use of an aisle runner, because of safety.

Photographer / Videographer Setting

Diagram 1.



The Wedding Ceremony

Prelude	_____
Lighting of the Candles (grandparents and parents)	_____
Bridesmaids' Procession	_____
Bride's Processional	_____
Gathering Song	_____
Greeting Rites	
Opening Prayer	
Liturgy of the Word	
First Reading	_____
Psalm	_____
Second Reading	_____
Alleluia	_____
Gospel	_____
Homily	
Statement of Intentions & Consent	
Blessing and Exchange of Rings	
Lighting of the Unity Candle (-)	_____
General Intercessions	
*Liturgy of the Eucharist	
*Offertory	
*Prayer over the Gifts	_____
*Eucharistic Prayer	_____
*Preface	
*Holy	
*Memorial Acclamation	
*Doxology	
*Communion Rite	
Lord's Prayer	
Nuptial Blessing	
Sign of Peace	
*Breaking of the Bread	
*Lamb of God	
*Communion Song	_____
*Prayer after Communion	
Final Blessing	
Recessional	_____

- * It is not part of a Roman Catholic wedding outside of Mass.
(-) It is not necessary in a Roman Catholic wedding.

Marriage Guidelines Check List

- ___ Contact Pastor at least **six months** prior to the tentative wedding date.
- ___ Contact the Parish Music Director, Mr. Wil Wilder by an e-mail: wwilder@sjosephcatholic.org ,**after your first meeting** with the priest. Do not contract with any outside musician prior to contacting the Parish Music Director.
- ___ Couple stewardship: As a sign of good stewardship \$550 (parishioners); \$850 (parishioners < 2years), \$1050 (non-parishioners) is to be paid to St. Joseph Catholic Church. Please send stewardship to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1406 E. Washington St. Louisville, KY 40206 **within 30 days** after meeting with the priest for the first time.
- ___ If you are interested in renting the Parish Hall for your reception, please contact our parish secretary, (502) 583-7401, **as soon as** it is possible.
- ___ The bride and groom will request a copy of their baptismal and confirmation certificates from the church where they were baptized, and the church will send the original copies by mail to St. Joseph Catholic Church, **after first meeting** with the priest.
- ___ The bride and groom's father or mother will schedule an appointment with the priest to sign the MB's documents, **as soon as** it is possible. Please contact our office 502-583-7401, to be sure our secretary is in.
- ___ Must register **immediately** after meeting with the priest in a Marriage Preparation Program. Please bring a copy of program's certificate to the priest.
- ___ Call Pastor to schedule planning day for wedding rehearsal **two months** prior to wedding.
- ___ Get marriage license from County Clerk office (where bride resides) **within a month** of wedding date and bring it to the presiding priest a week before the wedding.
- ___ Bring or e-mail the final draft of printed wedding program sheet **at least one week** prior to wedding for approval by the presiding minister.
- ___ Please make every effort to be **on time** for rehearsal.

ST. JOSEPH WEDDING AGREEMENT

WE WISH TO RESERVE ST. JOSEPH CHURCH FOR OUR WEDDING: *We have read and understand the guidelines for weddings at St. Joseph Church.*

COUPLE

_____	_____
Bride	Groom
_____	_____
Address	Address
_____	_____
Zip	Zip
_____	_____
Phone	Phone

DATES:

Rehearsal: _____ Wedding: _____
Date Time Date Time

FEES:

Use of the Church

Parishioners Fee: \$550.00 _____
Parishioners (<2 years): \$850.00 _____
No Parishioners: \$1050.00 _____

Classroom Rental (in 2 hour increments before the ceremony): \$100 _____
Beginning Time _____ Ending Time _____
No food or alcohol permitted-all items removed prior to ceremony.

Unity Candle Stand Rental: \$25 _____
Couple provides candles.

Parish Musicians are paid directly prior to the wedding.

**There is no smoking inside St. Joseph Buildings.
No alcoholic beverages are permitted before, during or after the rehearsal and/or
the wedding.
No food or snacks permitted in the Sanctuary.**

PAYMENT: _____
Date Check #

Steps for Marrying in the Archdiocese of Louisville

1. At least six months prior to your wedding, *and before you set your wedding date*, make initial contact with your parish to schedule a meeting with the priest, deacon or pastoral administrator. You will receive information about parish guidelines as well as a marriage booklet explaining archdiocesan guidelines. This booklet also includes information on all marriage preparation programs as well as registration forms. You can then schedule a date for the wedding. You may also begin to complete some of the required paperwork.
2. Next, you will set a time to take a premarital inventory. The FOCCUS Inventory (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) is widely used as part of marriage preparation in the Archdiocese of Louisville. Some parishes may offer a different inventory, or special circumstances may dictate another inventory.
3. Then you will meet with a facilitator from the parish to discuss the results of the inventory, including the areas of strength in your relationship as well as the areas that need attention.
4. Your next step is participation in a parish-based or archdiocesan marriage preparation program. The decision about the best program for you was probably discussed at your initial meeting with the priest, deacon or pastoral administrator. These programs are most helpful when attended *early* in your preparation time.
5. It is recommended that you attend a Natural Family Planning training session to learn about a scientific natural method that is completely safe, has no harmful side effects, and is 99% effective. It can be used to achieve, space or avoid pregnancy.
6. You will meet one or more times with the priest, deacon or pastoral administrator to discuss any issues or concerns about your marriage that arose from the preparation sessions, to review all details of the wedding ceremony including the readings and music, and to complete any final paperwork.
7. A day or two before the wedding, the wedding rehearsal will take place with all the principal people. They are the ones who have an active role in the ceremony. Check with the priest, deacon, pastoral minister or the parish wedding coordinator to see who will need to be included.
8. At last! It's your wedding day! Congratulations! Celebrate this day with family and friends as you begin your lifetime commitment to one another.

Additional Information on Marriage in the Catholic Church

Interchurch/Interfaith Marriages

The Catholic church considers the marriage between baptized Christians to be a sacrament. Yet, it is only realistic to recognize that religious differences can give rise to tensions within a marriage. Such marriages deserve careful attention and support. When the person who is not Catholic is active in his or her faith, consideration should be given to the possibility of the following options:

1. Inviting the participation of the minister of the non-Catholic faith tradition to be part of the marriage preparation.
2. Inviting the Christian minister to participate in the wedding ceremony. Because of issues concerning Eucharistic sharing that may arise from the presence of non-Catholic witnesses and guests, a marriage between a person who is Christian yet not Catholic and one who is Catholic is celebrated according to the Catholic form and ordinarily takes place outside the Eucharistic liturgy. For a just cause, however, the archdiocesan bishop may permit the celebration of Eucharist. When the marriage is between a Catholic and a person of a non-Christian faith (e.g. Catholic and a Jew or Muslim, etc.), special care should be taken to ensure respect for both traditions. For appropriate guidelines, consult the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, 502-636-0296.

Resources

Dovetail: A Journal by and for Jewish/Christian Families. www.dovetailinstitute.org
Association of Interchurch Families -- assists interchurch families through education, support, spiritual growth, outreach and fellowship. AIF is a worldwide website for interchurch families. www.interchurchfamilies.org

Validation of Marriage

Remembering that this new act of consent (in the validation) will create the only valid marriage, these situations will vary widely. In the case of recently, civilly married couples, the full preparation period is usually indicated; this is always the case when the civil marriage was entered to avoid the six-month preparation process. Even in the case of a couple civilly married for many years, an assessment of their previous involvement in the church and of the stability of their marital relationship requires a time for preparation. Consultation with priest, deacon or pastoral administrator for appropriate preparation is necessary.

Cohabitation

Modern social customs do not support the Christian ideal of marriage as firmly as in past times. There is less social stigma attached to the practice of cohabitating before marriage. This arrangement is inconsistent with Christian marriage and with a Catholic way of life. The Catholic Christian community looks upon marriage as the public promise of a man and a woman to a covenant of mutual unselfish love, fidelity, permanence and openness to children. Further, the Sacrament of Marriage is a sign of God's love for humanity and Christ's love for the church. Couples who cohabit (that is, who live together in a sexual relationship when not married) have not formally pledged themselves to these values, nor has the Catholic Christian community formally committed itself to supporting the couple.

If a couple is cohabitating, this does not mean that they are denied marriage in the church. It does mean that the couple may be asked to explore their reality and why they are choosing to celebrate the sacrament of marriage at this time.

Resources

Living Together and Christian Commitment: A Reflection for Engaged Couples Who are Living Together. James Healy, PhD. (<http://www.rootedinlove.org>)

Getting Married, Living Together – A Guide for Engaged Couples. Anthony Garascia (Ave Maria Press)

Marriage of Minors

Generally, marriages between teenagers are to be discouraged since statistical evidence indicates that the probability of permanence in such marriages is greatly reduced. If either party is not yet nineteen years old, consideration for marriage in the church will be given only after consultation with parents and after a favorable recommendation from a counselor approved by the archdiocese. Rarely, if ever, is permission given for anyone under eighteen.

Pregnancy Before Marriage

When pregnancy occurs outside of marriage, it is a time of great stress and turmoil for the parties involved and their families. The church views such situations with compassion and concern. However, marriage should not automatically be presumed to be the appropriate solution for the child or its parents in these cases.

The priest/deacon may offer counsel regarding other morally acceptable alternatives. In any case, the fact of pregnancy does not diminish the need for marriage preparation as described here. Indeed, it is even more vital to the success of such marriages that the established procedures be observed and the couple honor the six months of preparation.

If either member is under nineteen years old or was not engaged prior to the pregnancy, special counseling and evaluation must be obtained from a counselor approved by the archdiocese. This counseling must be completed before any consideration will be given to the request for marriage in the church.

Pre-Marriage Counseling

When special circumstances suggest the need for further pre-marriage counseling, the priest or deacon will refer the couple to an approved archdiocesan counselor. Counseling is required in these situations:

1. When either party is under 19 years of age.
2. When the woman is pregnant prior to public engagement.
3. When the priest or deacon considers there to be a lack of readiness on the part of either party.
4. When required by the Chancery upon completion of a marriage case.

At Family Ministries Counseling Services, pre-marriage counseling consists of a series of three or more sessions. They are designed primarily to help the couple evaluate their relationship and secondarily to assist the parish priest or deacon in determining the couple's readiness for marriage. Contact the counseling services at 502/636-1044.

Delay of Marriage

Marriage exists for the good of the individual spouses and for the good of the community. The right to marry is a fundamental right grounded in human nature itself, and both civil and canon law protect this right. Thus, a priest or deacon may not lightly delay a wedding of a parishioner who is free to marry. However, for a just reason, a priest or deacon may recommend a wedding be delayed. In a few cases and for a serious reason, a priest or deacon, acting in good conscience, may refuse to act as the "witness for the church" in a particular wedding.

The purpose of this process is to ensure due process to the couples and to protect their rights against arbitrary decisions by pastoral ministers. When an appeal to the Chancery is made, the priest or deacon will be asked to explain his reasons for the delay, which must be sound reasons that can be documented. The couple has a right to a final decision within thirty days of their appeal to the Chancery.

Marriage Resources

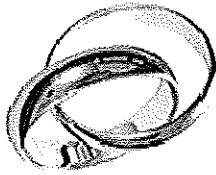
ForYourMarriage.org – A website that gives tips to keep your marriage alive plus much, much more.
Making a Case for Marriage – A series of short presentations. Total of eight topics. Shows how church belief and teaching about marriage are strengthened and confirmed by the findings of social science research. <http://www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/makingacase.shtml>
The U. S. Bishop's National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage. <http://www.usccb.org/npim>
National Association for Catholic Family Life Ministers. <http://www.nacflm.org>
Smart Marriages – sponsored by the Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education. <http://www.smartmarriages.com>

Marriage Preparation Programs

Foundation for Marriage

This one-day diocesan program is designed for those entering a first marriage. Sessions are structured to help engaged couples better understand themselves and the joys, complexities and challenges of marriage. Married couples and persons with expertise in the topic areas present and lead couple discussions.

Foundation for Marriage: What To Expect?



Your decision to marry may well be the most important decision of your life. The Church celebrates this exciting time with you wishes to help prepare you for a lifetime together in marriage.

This one-day, eight-hour program addresses the topics of Marriage as a Sacrament, Communication, Budgeting as a Couple, Family of Origin, Parenting, Intimacy and Christian Sexuality. Persons who have expertise in these areas present the topics and are assisted by married couples. After each presentation, private couple conversation is encouraged.

The intent of the day is to raise topics and concepts that couples marrying in the church need to talk about before the "I do"; to help engaged couples better understand the vocation of marriage, its joys, complexities and challenges.

Foundation for Marriage is most helpful early in your engagement, before you become busy and wrapped up in the details of your wedding. It is best suited for first marriages.

Foundation for Marriage is designed to complement the FOCCUS inventory. Although it is an independent program, it can provide an even more comprehensive marriage preparation process when combined with the inventory.

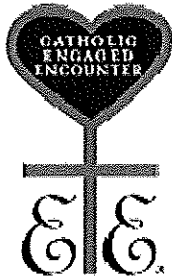
The day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at approximately 4:30 p.m. Attendance for the entire day is required. Cost per couple: \$75.00.

The registration form is in the marriage booklet obtained from the parish or by clicking [here](#). This form is completed only after the initial conversation with your parish priest or deacon regarding your marriage preparation.

Catholic Engaged Encounter

This weekend experience is designed for those entering a first marriage. A team of married couples and a priest leads it. Emphasis is placed upon creating a pattern of dialogue to enable couples to communicate with each other effectively. Although Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to couples of any faith tradition.

What Happens on a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend?



An atmosphere is created for the two of you to concentrate exclusively on each other, free of the distractions, pressures and interruptions of daily living – a “time out” away from home, friends and wedding preparations. There are no group dynamics or group therapy. It is a quiet weekend, specifically designed to give you the opportunity to talk honestly and intensively about your future together – an opportunity to discover a deeper appreciation of your relationship and God’s call to unite in a permanent union, the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The weekend consists of a series of presentations beginning Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. Led by a team of married couples and a priest, the two of you are encouraged to talk privately with each other on many aspects of marriage, always from the viewpoint of your own relationship.

Among the subjects you will have an opportunity to discuss with each other are your ambitions, goals, attitudes about God, sex, money, children, family, and your role in the church and community. Personal reflection and couple discussion are the main focus of our weekend. Since each relationship is in a different place, your private answers will be unique and special to your relationship.

Through personal sharing, the members of the presenting team talk about what the Sacrament of Matrimony means to them individually and the impact a great marriage can have on the world. We will not tell you how to live your lives. Our stories are meant to encourage you to explore your own attitudes and expectations. We will offer some good ideas and tools to help the two of you to continue growing closer through the years.

Why Should We Go on A Weekend?

Our motto is a “A wedding is a day; a marriage is a lifetime.” Think of all the preparation you have done for your career or job. Most us spend years studying or learning. Think of the preparation taken for your wedding day. Most people spend months planning and many dollars preparing for their wedding. But how much time and effort do we spend preparing for what we hope will last 50 or 60 years – our marriage?

Ask yourself this question: “Am I willing to spend 44 hours devoted to hearing ideas and learning skills that will help to make my marriage the best it can be?”

Weekends begin on Friday at 8:00 p.m. and end on Sunday at approximately 4:00 p.m. Attendance for the entire weekend is required. Cost per couple: For 2013 weekends, \$269; for 2014 weekends, \$330.* **No refunds will be given for cancellations within 30 days of the scheduled weekend date.**

The registration form is in the marriage booklet obtained from the parish or on the website below. Registration form and payment should be mailed to Louisville Catholic Engaged Encounter, PO Box 20244, Louisville, KY 40250.

Remarriage Preparation

Persons marrying after the death of a spouse or a declaration of nullity are viewed with special concern owing to differing circumstances and past experience with marriage. Consult with priest/deacon for appropriate preparation.

Inventories:

- FOCCUS – this instrument has a remarriage component.
 - Prepare-Enrich – This inventory is ideal for use with couples where one or both are 50 years or older and where one or both parties have children.

Prepare-Enrich is available through Family Counseling, 502-636-1044.

An Invitation

If you will be celebrating a marriage within the Roman Catholic Church, you are invited to announce your engagement in the Bridal issue of the Record Newspaper. Published in January and July, each full-color issue celebrates marriages that will occur during the next six months. More than 100 couples are showcased in each issue. You may register online, in person, or by mail. There is no charge.

*For more information go to:
www.archlou.org/therecord
or call Rachell at
502-636-0296, ext. 1230*

Archdiocesan Contacts

Family Ministries	502-636-0296
Family Ministries Counseling	502-636-1044
Multicultural Ministries (Hispanic Ministry)	502-636-0296
Tribunal	502-585-3291
Websites: www.archlou.org www.archlou.org/family	

Marriage Preparation Program Registration
programs for couples entering *first marriages*

NO REGISTRATIONS ARE TAKEN BY PHONE

Please complete and return this form with check made payable to either: FOUNDATION FOR MARRIAGE or LOUISVILLE CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER (Refer to insert for corresponding schedule, mailing address and fee.)

Foundation for Marriage Engaged Encounter

Session Date: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

PLEASE PRINT and fill out in full the following information (include names as you wish to appear on your certificate or name tag.)

Bride's Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone (work) _____ (home/cell) _____

Age _____ First Marriage? Yes _____ No _____

Religious Affiliation _____

Email _____

Groom's Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone (work) _____ (home/cell) _____

Age _____ First Marriage? Yes _____ No _____

Religious Affiliation _____

Email _____

Officiating Priest/Deacon _____

Church _____

Date of Wedding _____ Check Number _____