



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS

The Marriage Preparation Process is designed to help you deepen your love for one another and for the Lord Jesus. Through your preparation, you will discover your strengths as well as areas of potential conflict challenge and growth. This process includes:

1. **Completion of the Prenuptial Questionnaire.**
2. **A Baptismal Certificate for both parties is required.** Catholic certificates must have been newly issued by the parish of baptism within six months prior to the wedding.
3. **If your wedding is to be an interfaith marriage,** the Catholic party must promise that he/she will continue to practice their faith. This includes the responsibility of doing all in your power to have children baptized and raised as Catholics.
4. **Attendance at the two-part Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program is required.** The dates and times that these sessions are offered are available through the Diocesan Family Ministry Office. You must register ahead of time.
5. **If your marriage is to be an interfaith marriage,** additional instructions are needed to ensure that the party of the non-Catholic faith understands the Catholic Church's teaching on Sacraments, etc.
6. **Completion of the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, & Study) inventory with a married couple from the parish.** You will be assigned a FOCCUS couple by the priest or pastoral associate.
7. **The actual planning of your Nuptial Mass or Wedding Service.**