

Preparing for Catholic marriage

Contact your parish early, before making nonrefundable commitments. Baptismal history, any previous marriage and other circumstances can affect the process. Discuss these privately with the priest or preparation team; a general checklist cannot determine a person's freedom to marry.

Begin before fixing the date

☐ **Arrange an initial meeting**

Ask about the parish's preparation timeline and when a date can be confirmed.

☐ **Share relevant circumstances privately**

Discuss baptismal history and any previous marriage, including a civil marriage, with the priest or designated minister.

☐ **Confirm documents and permissions**

Ask what is required in your circumstances, how recent certificates must be and how to submit them securely.

Prepare for married life

☐ **Have practical conversations**

Discuss daily responsibilities, finances, children, extended family and how you handle disagreement. Use the preparation program's guidance.

☐ **Complete the formation process**

Plan sessions, retreats or meetings and ask about accessible arrangements if needed.

☐ **Identify continuing support**

Ask where couples can find pastoral support and help when difficulties arise.

Our parish conversation

Parish / contact: _____ Meeting date: _____

Plan the liturgy and practical details

☐ Choose with the parish

Discuss readings, music, ministers and whether the celebration will take place within Mass.

☐ Confirm arrangements

Review rehearsal, fees, accessibility, photography and guest information. Keep a clear record of agreed details.

Questions to bring

What must be resolved before a wedding date is confirmed?

Which documents, preparation and permissions apply to us?

What support is available after the wedding?

What our parish asks us to do

Dates and next steps

Teaching reference: Catechism 1625-1637: matrimonial consent and preparation. Read the source and companion guide at lifeofacatholic.com/sacraments/marriage/.