

## Marriage Preparation Checklist

*God's blessings upon your engagement! Just as you have a checklist of items needed to plan for your wedding and reception, you will also need a checklist of items needed to properly prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage within the Catholic Church. Take the time to complete each of these steps in the order suggested. Doing so will ensure complete and meaningful formation.*

Give gratitude to God for the love that He has given to you as a couple. Pray together for His mercy and grace throughout your engagement.

**Make an appointment** with your parish priest or deacon **as soon as you are engaged but not less than 6 months in advance** of your **tentative** wedding date. If available, preview the marriage policy for the parish and diocese.

**NOTE:** in the Diocese of La Crosse the Bishop requires all marriages to occur within a Church. Although you can request a dispensation, they are generally **never** given.

Supply your priest/deacon with a current copy of your baptismal certificate (if marrying outside of your home parish).

Meet with the priest/deacon to complete the pre-nuptial questionnaire and review all parish and diocesan policies.

Participate in a FOCCUS pre-marriage inventory.

Complete on-line Natural Family Planning class

Meet with your priest, deacon or sponsor couple to discuss the results of the pre-marriage inventory (may entail multiple meetings).

Attend a Marriage Preparation Course (details available from your parish).

Meet with the priest/deacon or wedding coordinator to discuss wedding liturgy details.

Select Scripture readings, petitions, music.

Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) prior to your wedding.



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