

Marriage

St. Paul Catholic Community celebrates your being called to the sacrament of Marriage as you live out your Baptism. As a community, we want to give you all the tools to live your marriage vows now and forever.

The Diocese of Phoenix currently requires a minimum of nine months of preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples must notify their parish at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date.

Preparation for marriage includes the following:

- being a registered active parishioner of St. Paul
- attending Mass regularly and considering opportunities and activities to enrich your faith life as a couple.
- attending prenuptial meetings with a priest or deacon and the marriage preparation coordinator.
- obtaining new copies of your baptismal records
- completing a prenuptial inquiry
- affidavits of free status
- completing a premarital inventory (FOCCUS) to help you recognize your strengths and address your challenges as a couple
- meeting with a counselor to review the premarital inventory
- participating in a marriage life skills class
- attending *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage*
- attending natural family planning classes
- planning your wedding liturgy

Please contact the St. Paul's Marriage Preparation Coordinator before you set a wedding date to begin the process.

FAQ

What if one of us isn't Catholic?

Only one of you is required to be a baptized Catholic as long as you both agree to raise your children in the Catholic faith. The marriage preparation coordinator will assist you in the necessary paperwork. As part of your preparation you will be encouraged to discuss the challenges that differing faith practices and traditions can bring to your couple spirituality and family life.

What if one of us has been previously married?

If either of you have been previously married, whether in the Catholic Church, in a civil ceremony or in a non-Catholic religious ceremony, and your former spouse is still living, you will need an annulment before you are free to marry in the Catholic Church- **even if you are not Catholic**. Please contact one of our priests for more information on the annulment process.

Can we bless our civil marriage?

Yes, you may validate ("bless") your civil marriage. Preparation for convalidation is very similar to the recommended marriage preparation process. Please contact the marriage preparation coordinator for more information.

I have more questions! Who can answer them?

Please call the Marriage Preparation Coordinator for more information.

Marriage Preparation
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