



ST. PATRICK
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES IN MISSION

Getting Married *at* St. Patrick

We welcome those who are seeking to become the Sacrament of Matrimony. That is right, becoming the sacrament. Priests do not marry couples; rather they, along with all who attend the ceremony, are witnesses to the couple who through their vows become an outward sign of grace, the Sacrament of Matrimony. Pretty awesome stuff! Since the couple become that outward sign, it makes sense that there needs to be some important formation, preparation and prayerful reflection before all this happens. Our Catholic faith has long been the leader in recognizing the need for marriage preparation and provides engaged couples preparation before the wedding. Marriage preparation is now provided in other faith traditions along with some state governments. The most important decision one can make in life is who they decide to marry, therefore it only makes sense that it deserves our best effort.

It is the desire of this community to support you in your preparation as you become that outward sign of grace to the community. It makes sense for the couple to be an active part of the community and if that is already happening, great! If not, then this might be a wonderful opportunity for you to connect with this Christian community. We believe that personal encounter is important, so we ask that when you come to Mass you pick up a Marriage Preparation brochure in our Narthex or come by the Parish Office to obtain one. Coming in to obtain this brochure is a start to becoming familiar with our faith community which is so important. All the pertinent information to be prepared and/or married at St. Patrick is contained inside this brochure.

We believe it is our responsibility as your faith community to assist you in as many ways as we can to be successful in your marriage relationship. Research shows that couples who participate in a preparation process, including communication and family of origin exploration, have fewer communication difficulties in the first five years of their marriages. After being involved in such preparation processes, couples are also more willing to seek outside help with marital difficulties or participate in enrichment activities later on in their marriages.

That is why our preparation process includes all of these things – a relationship inventory, a couples communication course, mentor couples, and opportunities to explore your family or origin, sexuality, and other topics using “For Better and For Ever.”



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St. Patrick's preparation process may seem more extensive than that of other churches. It probably is. We want to spend quality time with you to facilitate your FOCCUS instrument as you explore your relationship further. Mentor couples will get to know you to help you feel comfortable with the Community of St. Patrick. They will meet with you at least five times to discuss in-depth exploration of your families of origin and other pertinent topics in the book "For Better and For Ever."

Because it has to do with the rest of your lives, we have a strong commitment to your marriage preparation and this very special moment in your lives.

Please call the parish office at 480-998-3843 to make an appointment with the pastor. You are eligible to be married at St. Patrick if either the bride or the groom lives within the parish boundaries, or your parents are registered members of the parish. During your preparation period, you are expected to attend mass each Sunday and participate as members of the parish. If you do this, your wedding day will truly be a celebration of the entire St. Patrick community, as well as that of your family and special friends. With Christ as the center of your relationship, we as a parish can partake in welcoming you and helping you start your sacramental life together.

When you make your first phone call, only the appointment with the pastor will be set. We do not set wedding dates or times until the first interview.

Wedding dates cannot be set by phone, and the church cannot be "reserved" for a particular time until after the first interview.

During the interview, the pastor will introduce you to the marriage preparation process at St. Patrick. At this meeting, you will choose your wedding date and rehearsal date. You will also be asked to schedule a meeting with the pastoral associate.

Marriage Preparation brochures are available in the Church Narthex and in the Parish Office. For more information on marriage preparation, call Gerry Blakeman at 480-998-3843 ext. 103.