

## Marriage Preparation

At St Augustine/St. Joseph Egypt Cluster the following will be required as part of the preparation for every marriage:

1. **Contact Parish Office to set a wedding date. Deacon or Priest** will return your call and set up a date to meet with you to get you started with the process. You can not set a wedding date without an initial meeting. Contact information: 419-628-2614.
2. **Myers-Briggs will be administered.** This inventory helps couples understand how each tends to experience life and to make decisions. This is completed at the initial meeting with the Priest or Deacon who completed the intake process.
3. **Baptismal certificate.** A recently dated baptismal certificate (within six months of the marriage) must be obtained by both parties unless the baptism took place at St. Augustine or St. Joseph Church.
4. **Genesis (Pre-Cana) or New Beginnings (for second marriage).** The Archdiocese requires the couples to attend a formal program as part of their preparation for marriage. The Archdiocese will accept the following: Archdiocesan Engaged Retreat Day, Ruah Woods Joy-Filled Marriage Program, Catholic Engaged Encounter, and Parish Based Marriage Preparation Retreat. This should be scheduled immediately after you have confirmed a wedding date. Sessions fill up quickly.
5. **Fully Engaged: Growing Toward Lasting Fidelity will be administered.**  
The inventory includes the following areas: Differences, Division of Labor, Recreation, Family of Origin, Communications, Conflict Resolution, Catholic Identity, Finances, Intimacy, Infertility and Adoption, Catholic Parenting, Vocation and Career, The Sacrament of Marriage, Ecumenical Marriage, or Second Marriage and Blended Family, if applicable. This instrument is administered by a facilitating couple assigned by the church.
6. **Conferences with the Facilitating Couple.** During two or more conferences with your assigned facilitating couple, you will be asked to discuss the Fully Engaged results and to respond to certain questions.
7. **Conferences with the Priest or Deacon.** During two or conferences the priest or deacon will review the results of the Myers-Briggs, fill out Archdiocese forms which assesses the couples readiness for marriage, and help the couple plan the wedding ceremony. If the priest/deacon needs the advice of parents, he will ask them to come in for a conference. If the couple would benefit from seeing a family counselor (such as in the case of pregnancy), then a referral will be made. Pregnancy is a reason for taking more time in preparation.

- 8. Conference with the Director of Music.** Jared Post, Director of Music, should be contacted 9 months prior to the date of your wedding and will help you plan the music for the wedding ceremony. All musicians and all music have to be approved by the Director of Music. The Archdiocese has a number of restrictions that the Director of Music will explain to you at the meeting. Contact information: Telephone: 419-852-2911; Email: musicstaugie@gmail.com.
- 9. Interfaith marriage.** When a Catholic chooses to marry someone from a different religious tradition, the couple is required to take special instructions about the Catholic faith. The intent of these instructions is not to convert the non-Catholic party, but merely to provide some appreciation of what the Catholic party believes and how their beliefs differ.
- 10. Marriage License:** Bring this to the rectory at least twenty-four hours before the wedding, along with your donation to the church. If you reside in Ohio, the marriage license must be obtained from the County Probate Court in which one of you reside. If you live out of state you must obtain your marriage license from the County Probate Court in Auglaize which is located in Wapakoneta.
- 11. Payment for Use of Church:** All checks are payable to St. Augustine Church regardless which church you select – St. Augustine or St. Joseph.

### Marriage Ceremony

Within the confines of solid liturgical principles, we encourage you and your families to create a sacramental experience that is personal. You may designate servers, lectors, reader for the Prayer of the Faithful, and gift bears for the offertory procession. Readers should be competent and practice beforehand, especially if they are not familiar with the public address system. You may design a printed program for the wedding ceremony. If Mass is not celebrated at the wedding ceremony you will not need servers.

There are two local customs at St. Augustine and St. Joseph, which are sometimes followed. Some couples like the custom of lighting the unity candle. You will need to obtain your own candles (or perhaps even make them). Some couples bring a flower to the Blessed Virgin Mary's Altar. This symbolizes the couples dedication to the Holy Family as a role model of Christian living.

### Areas available for use by the bridal party and responsibilities that must be done by them.

The rectory basement and the conference room are available for use except for the Sundays that we have First Communion and Confirmation. Pictures may be taken in the church or on church property prior to wedding. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on church property on the day of the rehearsal, the wedding or any other day for that matter. This includes the church, the rectory, the parking lot or adjacent

areas. If you use the rectory basement, conference room, and church, all areas must be cleaned up by the wedding party or the family or friends of the bride and groom. You must gather all trash, take it to trash receptacle inside the garage. All personal items must be removed for the rectory and church. This should be done not later than 3:45 PM. The rectory basement is used by various groups every Sunday.

### Time for Weddings

Saturday afternoons at 1:30 PM. The wedding party must be out of both churches by 3:45 PM.

### Donation to the church

Couples are to make a donation to the church to cover such expenses such as using the church, materials used in the preparation process, sacristan, and other miscellaneous services. The donation to the church is required even if arrangements are made for outside musicians and/or visiting priest. The expenses of the church remain the same. The donation should be given at the same time the marriage license is brought to the St. Augustine Rectory or prior. You can also make payment prior to that time if you wish.

#### **Parishioners:**

- \$450.00 donation will include use of the church and St. Augustine Director of Music.
- \$300.00 donation is required if you choose a different organist or group and you pay them directly.

#### **Non-parishioners:**

- \$750.00 donation will include use of the church and St. Augustine Director of Music donation is required
- \$600.00 if you choose a different organist or group and you pay them directly.