

Marriage Preparation – A Step-by-Step Guide

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

Step 1) Contact the Parish Office @ 419-628-2614.

Please be prepared to leave your name, phone number that is best to call you, and your email address. This information will be forwarded to the deacon or priest assigned to you. The deacon or priest will return your call and set up a date to meet with you. You will not get a wedding date until after your first meeting with the church.

Step 2) Initial meeting held at rectory offices: please set aside 1.5 to 2 hours for this meeting

a) The initial meeting is used to determine that each party is free to marry.

* If each person is free to marry, the couple can then set a wedding date and be added to wedding calendar.

* If an impediment exists such as divorce or waiting on approvals from Rome or Archdiocese a wedding date cannot be set. Tentative dates cannot and will not be put on calendar. Any and all impediments must be resolved and final before date can be reserved.

b) Selection of Celebrant / Presider -

If both parties of couple are Catholic:

* A Priest (Fr Frankline or other) will preside and mass is included.

* A Deacon can also perform Marriage ceremony – (Mass will not be part of ceremony)

Interfaith marriages:

* A deacon will be assigned as presider/celebrant of your ceremony

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.

c) 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 Jared will help you navigate. Contact information: Email: musicstaugie@gmail.com; Telephone: 419-852-2911

d) Myers-Briggs instrument 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 completes the intake meeting/process

Step 3) Baptismal certificate

A recently dated baptismal certificate (within six months of the marriage) must be obtained from both parties. For those baptized at St. Augustine or at St Joseph Church, the baptismal certificate is on file and marriage prep team will look it up, make a copy and add to your Marriage file.

Step 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 Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Program is intended to help strengthen your relationship as you prepare for the vocation of marriage. A certificate of completion will be distributed at the end of the program. Periodically, there will be enrichment opportunities offered that you can participate in at no extra charge.

Registration should be made 14 days prior to the event. Please enter your required information and program date below. Sessions fill up quickly!!

The Archdiocese will accept the following:

- Genesis (2019 Pre-Cana) - Cost: \$ 150.00 (as of July 10, 2019); 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Link to Online Registration form for Genesis / Pre-Cana
<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=7523bc>
- Cana II (for widows, widowers, and those receiving an annulments)
- Ruah Woods (God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage & Living a Joy-Filled Marriage)
- Catholic Engaged Encounter (2 or 3 day marriage preparation weekend retreat)

Step 5) Fully Engaged: Growing Toward Lasting Fidelity will be administered

The Fully Engaged inventory “Builds upon Pre-Cana Program” and 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	
Second Marriage and Blended Family, if applicable.		

The Marriage Prep coordinator assigned meets with couple and administers Fully Engaged instrument

(Like Myers-Briggs – one records answer of choice by filling in circle of choice)

The instrument is scored based on answers given and once results are recorded, the information is passed on or given to the Facilitating Couple assigned to couple.

The number of times a couple meets with facilitating couple assigned to them is dependent upon the readiness of the 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.

Step 6) Conference with the Priest or Deacon – (When Pre-Cana and Fully Engaged are completed)

During one or more conferences the priest or deacon will:

- Review the results of the Myers-Briggs
- Review results of Pre-Cana
- Review the results of the Fully Engaged
- Fill out Archdiocese forms which assesses the couple's readiness for marriage

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

Step 7) Wedding Planning Guide for Ceremony/Mass

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.

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

Step 8) M1 Inserts and "A Letter: Why I love my Future Spouse"

a) M1 Inserts: Marriage coordinator will email each party an electronic copy of M1 inserts - Asking each to respond to questions - yes, questions you have seen before during this process - and documenting answers for coordinator to review how couples insights and thought processes have changed since first meeting.

b) Why I Love my Future Spouse: We ask couples to write a letter to their future spouse - length depends on person writing it - many times it is used by the celebrant or presider to create and incorporate bits and pieces into their homily

Step 9) Marriage License:

Marriage license must be secured within 30 days of wedding date/ceremony – not before.

* 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 outside of Ohio, you must obtain your marriage license from the County Probate Court in Auglaize which is located in Wapakoneta.

Bring marriage license to the rectory at least twenty-four hours before the wedding

Step 10) Donation / Payment for Use of Church:

Please bring donation along with your marriage license to rehearsal. All checks are payable to St. Augustine Church regardless which church you select – St. Augustine or St. Joseph.

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 rehearsal. You can also make payment prior to that time, if you wish.

Parishioners:

Church reservation -	Donation:	\$300.00
Music -	Director of Music Fee:	\$150.00
Couple is responsible to pay any other musicians/vocalists separately		

Non-parishioners:

Church reservation -	Donation:	\$450.00
Music -	Director of Music Fee:	\$150.00
Couple is responsible to pay any other musicians/vocalists separately		

Step 11) Rehearsal and the day of the wedding

Rehearsal times:

Fr Frankline meeting times are 5:30 pm with couple, 6:00 pm with wedding party

How long do rehearsals last?

Allow an hour or little longer. In preparing ceremony with couple, details can, are or should be worked out with Fr Frankline or Deacon before rehearsal or during 30 minutes before entire wedding party gathers together to minimize time spent rehearsing in church

Day of Wedding

- a. Time for Weddings: Saturday afternoons at 1:30 PM. The wedding party must be out of both churches by 3:45 PM.
- b. Pictures may be taken in the church or on church property prior to wedding.
- c. 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.

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.