

“First Step to the Altar”

The Sacrament of Marriage is a calling from God. By it, He infuses His grace into the lives of husbands and wives and this “First Step” will help organize your preparation for holy matrimony.

Groom	Bride
Name _____	
Address _____	
Address _____	
Phone _____	

Contact your parish church or the church where the wedding is to take place if you need assistance in asking a priest or deacon to perform the ceremony.

Meeting with Priest or Deacon

I, _____ (_____) _____ - _____ (print name and phone #),
a priest/deacon have met with the couple named above. We have discussed:

- the uniqueness of the bond of marriage as a sacrament (to be reiterated at final meeting)
- their canonical freedom from any prior bond of marriage
- a preliminary date for the ceremony
- which marriage preparation program is best for the couple (the first two should be offered as primary): *Mentor Couple Program, Engaged Encounter Weekend, Days for the Engaged, Online, etc.*
- which priest/deacon will complete the Prenuptial Inquiry, and officiate at the ceremony (see box below); which priest/deacon/lay marriage preparation minister will oversee their marriage preparation process, administer and analyze the pre-marriage inventory,

The couple named above has agreed to complete their marriage preparation program **two months in advance of the ceremony**.

•Today's Date: _____ 20__

•Date of Ceremony: _____ 20__

•Date by which marriage preparation program must be completed: _____ 20__

Signature of above priest/deacon: _____

The Officiating Cleric

Father/Deacon _____ (print name) will be officiating at the ceremony.

Place of ceremony: _____

Date and Time of ceremony: _____ 20__ ____:____

Signature of officiant: _____ phone # (_____) _____ - _____

Note to officiant: This form does not constitute canonical delegation to officiate at this ceremony.

Officiant may initial here to request delegation from the canonical pastor.

Understand that some pastors grant delegation only upon submission of all required documents.

Upon completion of the above, and not before, a couple may either reserve a church or confirm their prior reservation of a church with a monetary deposit. This form does not absolutely bind the parish or the officiant to the ceremony date listed above if a canonical prohibition or other impediment to marriage is discovered.