



300 S. Ridgeview Dr. • Warrensburg, MO 64093

www.shcatholic.com • (660) 747-6154

MARRIAGE PREPARATION AT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcome, and many blessings to you as you walk with the Lord in preparation for receiving the sacrament of Matrimony!

Our Lord, through the Church, gifts us times of preparation for great events and celebrations: Advent to prepare us for Christmas; Lent to prepare us for Easter. These times of preparation ready us to be fully open to and participate in the gifts and graces of those two great feasts. Additionally, the preparatory seasons bestow their own gifts and graces, and we find Advent and Lent themselves also draw us closer to God and more open to His grace.

This same approach holds true for marriage, and the time leading up to its celebration. Marriage is a vocation from the Lord that is for the couple to not only to grow in love for one another, but also to work with Him as co-creators to bring new life into the world. This sacred covenant between man and woman, joined by God, is meant to be lifelong and one that leads them to better know, love, and serve the Lord.

As such, listed below is the preparation process for the sacrament of marriage here at Sacred Heart. The goal of this process is not only to help ready the couple to celebrate and receive the great gifts of the sacrament and their life together, but to also help them be open to the graces God is bestowing upon them during this time of preparation.

Our prayer is that such diligent preparation will equip the couple as best as possible to truly live out the lifelong sacred vow they are to make on their wedding day.

May the Holy Spirit guard and guide you through this time of preparation and bring you the joy of God's love.

Wedding Date

That we have prudent time to schedule the sacrament and prepare the couple, we request that Sacred Heart parish be given a nine month advance notice on setting the wedding date. This should help provide the time necessary to complete the preparation process.

For situations in which there exists a prior marriage, whether done civilly or religiously, an annulment would need to be sought from the Marriage Tribunal of the KC-SJ Diocese first. A wedding date cannot be set until after the annulment is finalized.

Documentation

The Church requires the following documents be submitted to the parish.

A Marriage Registration Form is necessary for the marriage to be granted by the Church. It will be completed with the priest in the initial part of the marriage prep. The Marriage Registration Form will require the below:

- For Catholics: a baptismal certificate is required. The certificate must have been issued in the last six months, and include all the sacramental notations (Eucharist, Confirmation). To procure a baptismal certificate, you can simply contact the parish of your baptism, and have them mail it to Sacred Heart Parish.
- For non-Catholic Christians: proof of your baptism is required. This proof can be a baptism certificate, recording, or a signed witness statement of someone who was at the baptism – pastor, family, etc. The necessary information needed is the date, the name and location of the Church, and affirmation of the Trinitarian formula of baptism being used: (The pouring of water on the head/immersion in water + “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit)
- In case of previous marriages: a divorce decree for each prior bond will be required, as well as proof that the marriages have been annulled (Declaration of Nullity).

Assessment and Classes

Below is an overview of the assessments and classes that must be completed before the wedding day.

The Marriage Assessment:

This is not a test seeking a pass/fail result. Rather, this is an assessment done through Enrich/Prepare that is completed with the clergy. It seeks to identify strengths and areas of growth in your relationship, and quantify those in an easy discernible format. The assessment is a tool used to facilitate conversation and exploration on these areas within the relationship. We specifically explore those areas where there is a divergence of feelings, opinions, etc. with the hope of best preparing the couple for marriage.

THRIVE:

This curriculum is mandated for couples preparing for matrimony. The curriculum focuses on the human and spiritual development of the couple, and seeks to cover various topics including: Theology of the Body, Natural Family Planning, preparation for a family, developing a life of prayer and virtues, and more. Thrive will entail 14 chapters, containing video presentations, reading, online quizzes, and feedback from the diocesan mentor. The couple is responsible for the \$250 cost of Thrive, which will include supplemental materials mailed to each of them prior to the course. Additionally, it must be finished no later than one month prior to the wedding date.

<https://kcsjfamily.org/thrive>

The marriage cannot move forward if these two steps are not completed.

Meet with the Priest

The couple will meet with the priest for a minimum of three sessions, with room for more as needed. These sessions will be used to cover and discuss the marriage assessment, as well as cover specific topics with regards to the faith, the marriage, and the couple's understanding and participation in both.

The particular topics of conversation may include:

- Ephesians 5
- The Family and the Church
- The Wedding Vows

Planning the Marriage Mass/Service

The couple will need to contact Mrs. Lauren Meehan and the parish office to schedule time(s) in which to plan the logistics of the sacrament itself, as well as a rehearsal time and date. We request that the rehearsal and these meetings be schedule with the office no later than a month prior to the wedding date.

This time will be used to select the readings and music, groomsmen and bridesmaids, presiding cleric, etc.

Please note:

- All music for the wedding must come from the approved hymnals of the Church, and be appropriate for the celebration of the sacrament and liturgy.
- Readers for the readings during the wedding must either be the celebrating cleric or a practicing Catholic.
- All decorations or additives must also be approved by the priest prior to the wedding.

- If couples want another Catholic priest or deacon to officiate the wedding, they will need both permission from the assigned priest of Sacred Heart, and for a Letter of Suitability to be delivered to the KC-SJ Diocese.

Costs

Below are the following costs for the wedding itself:

- * \$125 for cantor
- * \$125 for pianist/organist
- * \$100 for use of the Church (covers cleaning, supplies, etc.)
- * Any donation to the priest is a free-will offering

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Fr. Kleine or our parish office at 660-747-6154.

May the Holy Family continue to watch over you, and lead you to better know, love, and serve the Lord.