

How Do We Begin?

Couples who are interested in celebrating their wedding at St. Stephen must contact the Pastor one year prior to the wedding date. The Pastor will then set up a time to meet with each individual couple. **No date** will be placed on the parish calendar until after the couple has met with the Pastor. The Pastor will then enter the wedding date into the parish calendar. If either person has been previously married, it is important to contact the Pastor earlier than one year. During the initial interview, the Pastor will then set up times to meet with the couple to help facilitate the preparation process. An initial \$100.00 non-refundable deposit must be received to hold the date on the church calendar. 30 days prior to the wedding date, all fees must be paid in full.

FOCCUS: In accordance with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's marriage guidelines, each couple will be given a pre-nuptial questionnaire. This is not a test, but rather an attempt to help you, as a couple, come to a deeper awareness of your strengths and weaknesses. This aid will be administered during one of two sessions with a trained FOCCUS couple.

Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation: In accordance with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, this program provides the opportunity for engaged couples to explore what a committed sacramental relationship will require of them. Online information and registration: www.johnpaul2center.org

Baptismal Certificates: Both of you must provide an updated copy of your baptismal certificate. Each Catholic must obtain a recently issued copy of his/her baptismal certificate. **This copy, by Church law, must be dated within six months of your wedding date.** This can be done by phoning or writing the church where you were baptized and asking them to send the baptismal certificate directly to St. Stephen Parish Office. Other baptized Christians, who are not Catholic, must present a record of their baptism also.