



**STEPS & TIMELINE FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

**What to Do... ..... When to Do It...**

- 1.) **Book the date** with the parish by having an initial marriage information meeting with a priest at St. Luke **as soon as possible and before any other arrangements are made**
- 2.) Participate in a marriage preparation program:.....4 to 8 months before  
Choose 1 of 2 options – ..... (but register early)
  - **Archdiocesan Pre-Cana day conference**
  - **One in Christ seminars**
 For registration options, go to [www.familyministries.org](http://www.familyministries.org)
- 3.) Make your offering to the parish.  
For a Wedding Mass or Ceremony - 1000.00 for non-supporting couples  
750.00 for supporting parishioners who regularly contribute  
For Wedding preparation **ONLY** 125.00 ( wedding will take place at another church) –
- 4.) Take the FOCCUS pre-marital inventory .....4 to 8 months before
  - \* Take the Natural Family Planning class (highly encouraged) .....3 to 6 months before  
For more info, visit <https://www.familyministries.org>
- 5.) Obtain Sacramental Records .....4-5 months before  
(Recently issued copies of Baptism and Confirmation certificates issued by the parish at which you received the sacrament.)
- 6.) Witness Affidavit forms .....4 months before  
(two witnesses for the bride, two for the groom)
- 7.) There are 3 - 4 meetings with a Priest .....3-5 months before
  - discuss the spirituality of marriage and the theology present in the Wedding Rite
  - check status of paperwork
  - discuss results of FOCCUS and Pre-Cana retreat (after FOCCUS and pre-Cana)
- 8.) Prepare and plan Mass / ceremony with Priest Celebrant .....2-3 months before
- 9.) Meet with Music Director to discuss music selections.....2 months before
- 10.) Pay fees for organist, cantor (and other musicians, if applicable)
- 11.) Obtain county marriage license.....1-2 months before
- 12.) All paperwork completed .....1 month before  
(Couples doing their marriage prep & paperwork at St. Luke’s but getting married elsewhere should have their paperwork done about two months before).

- 13.) Sacrament of Reconciliation (for Catholics) .....during last month  
(Reconciliation cleanses your heart & soul, and spiritually prepares you to enter into the sacred covenant of Holy Matrimony. Confessions times are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, or at parish services during Advent and Lent, or by appointment with one of the priests.)
  
- 14.) Wedding plans deadline date .....8 days before  
(Have all your wedding details and logistical planning done by this date so that you have a whole week to relax and rest up for your big day.)
  
- 15.) Wedding Rehearsal .....the evening before  
AND Celebrate ***Your Wedding Day!***