

## Marriage Preparation Checklist For Couples

*God's blessings upon your engagement! Just as you have a checklist of items needed to plan for your wedding and reception, you will also need a checklist of items needed to properly prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage within the Catholic Church. Take the time to complete each of these steps. Doing so will ensure complete and meaningful formation.*

- Give gratitude to God for the love that He has given to you as a couple. Pray together for His mercy and grace throughout your engagement. Attend Mass regularly.
- Make an appointment** with your parish priest, deacon or pastoral leader **as soon as you are engaged**. If available, preview the marriage guidelines for the parish and diocese.  
*NOTE: In the Diocese of Green Bay, the Bishop requires all marriages to occur within a church.*
- Supply your priest/deacon/pastoral leader with a current copy of your baptismal certificate (if marrying outside of your home parish).
- Meet with the priest/deacon/pastoral leader to complete the pre-nuptial questionnaire and review all parish and diocesan policies.
- Complete the FOCCUS pre-marriage inventory in the parish.
- Meet with the FOCCUS facilitator at your parish to discuss the FOCCUS inventory.
- Register and attend either the seminar classes (Part I and II) or the weekend retreat of "A Marriage in the Lord". Visit [www.marriageinthelord.org](http://www.marriageinthelord.org) or call 920-272-8291 to register.  
**NOTE: Register early! Sessions fill quickly!**
- Meet with the priest/deacon/pastoral leader or wedding coordinator to discuss wedding liturgy details.
- Select Scripture readings, petitions, music.
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) prior to your wedding.
- Marriage - Please contact the **county** clerk's office in which you live within 30 days of your wedding ceremony. If you live out of state, contact the county in which the ceremony will take place. Visit the [Wisconsin state license services](http://www.wisconsin.gov/licenses) website for additional details.



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