

Sacramental Formation for Newly - Engaged Couples

Overview: Sacramental paperwork is overseen by Sarah Sansone, our Wedding Coordinator - Amy Fisher handles the logistics of the ceremony and Katie Lowell will provide you with a Mentor Couple for the formation of the sacrament.

- 1) Katie Lowell will reach out and complete an intake interview with the couple. Here at St. Mary Magdalene we use the Prepare Enrich Inventory. Prepare/Enrich covers various areas within the relationship including communication, conflict resolution, finances, intimacy, and spiritual beliefs. In addition, the assessment will explore your personality, family of origin, and relationship dynamics.
- 2) About 5-6 months from the wedding date, engaged couples will receive an email from Katie Lowell with an introduction to their Mentor Couple. It is the responsibility of the engaged couple to reach out to the mentor couple to set up an initial meeting date/time.
- 3) Mentoring will last 5-6 months before the wedding and a couple of months after your marriage. There are approximately 9 topic sessions to cover. Couples may or may not need all 9 sessions. Accompaniment is not about a program but nurturing a relationship with people. Our goal is to love and support couples on their journey to the altar, helping them to understand the fullness of why the Church teaches what she does and facilitate engaging conversation around topics essential for a healthy and holy marriage.
- 4) The Diocesan Marriage Preparation Workshop is no longer required for couples who are preparing for marriage at StMM. If you are preparing for marriage at any other parish, you will be required to attend the diocesan Marriage Preparation Workshop. These workshops include a National Family Planning course and a Marriage Preparation Inventory.
- 5) Couples will have a meeting with a StMM Priest or Deacon to complete their prenuptial investigation (marriage paperwork). You must schedule this through Sarah Sansone at sansone@stmm.net at least 4 months before your wedding date.
- 6) One week before the wedding, the couple should receive the sacrament of reconciliation.
- 7) After the wedding, the newlyweds will meet at least once with their Mentor Couple to help connect them to the parish, check in, answer any questions, and be a resource for them. This is meant to be a touchpoint to see how the newly married couple is doing.