

FAQs by Couples Preparing for Marriage

1. "What do you do in the preparation?". Reference the generic flow chart below. There are many elements of preparation for a sacramental marriage that include: Meetings with Clergy, Pre-Marital Investigations, Verification of the "Freedom to Marry", a Fully Engaged Inventory, participation in a Pre-Cana session, Planning of your liturgy and other administrative activities.
2. "Why does it take so long for preparation?" Put very briefly, the Catholic Church takes this sacrament very seriously and wants each person entering marriage to be well prepared and suited for marriage.
3. "Why do we need to spend our time going through Pre-Cana?" After conducting dozens of Pre-Cana sessions, I have heard almost every couple say at the start that it seems like a lot of time spent on preparation. Then almost to the couple, after spending time focused on their relationship, they come away asking for more time to discuss issues that they are concerned with. Most people just don't have the time to really communicate with their future spouse about deeply significant issues Pre-Cana affords couples time to pause and get deeply engaged in their own specific needs.
4. "Do we need to have a Mass?" As a deacon, preparing couples for marriage I always explain the importance of having the Sacrament of the Eucharist in their marriage ceremony. Is it required? No. However, I ask them to consider the value of having Christ intimately involved in their marriage from the very start.
5. "Why can't we get married on a beach or in a park?" Marriage is a sacrament and as such is conducted in a sacred place.
6. More FAQs? I'm sure of it. This is why we need to spend the time and properly prepare for this sacrament.

We look forward to speaking with you about your sacramental questions. Peace be with you.