

Wedding & Marriage Prep FAQs

1

What is the first step in the process once we are engaged?

The first step is to contact the parish office at parishoffice@stgertrude.org or (513) 561-5954 as soon as possible. The parish will provide information about the marriage preparation process and help you begin the necessary paperwork. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati recommends beginning marriage preparation with your priest or deacon soon after your engagement and before making arrangements for your wedding reception.

2

What are St. Gertrude Parish's and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Pre-Cana (marriage prep) requirements?

Couples preparing for marriage at St. Gertrude Parish must be free to marry in the Catholic Church and complete the parish's marriage preparation process, which includes:

- Initial meeting with the preparing priest.
- Fully Engaged Inventory.
- Witness to Love, St. Gertrude Parish's marriage formation program, which includes mentor couple accompaniment, workbook chapters, activities, and Theology Night with the priest.
- Archdiocesan Marriage Retreat.
- Natural Family Planning (NFP) course.
- Completion of the required marriage preparation paperwork and any additional preparation determined by the preparing priest.

Witness to Love is a parish-based marriage formation program that provides engaged couples with formation, mentor accompaniment, and opportunities to become more connected to parish life. Mentor couples accompany engaged couples throughout the preparation process and continue to support them after the wedding. Once a couple begins the process, the parish will provide more information about marriage preparation and the required resources.

3

What is the minimum length of time needed to complete all the necessary paperwork and marriage preparation requirements?

The archdiocese requires a minimum of six months from the time you turn in your Wedding Request form until the date of your wedding; however, 9 to 12 months (or more) is preferred in order to complete all requirements.

4

Do we need to find our own organist, soloist, and musicians?

No. Our director of music will be the organist and will secure the vocalist and any other musicians you may desire. More information is available in the Wedding Policies booklet.