

# ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

We are delighted that you have chosen to begin your new life together in the Catholic Church. Marriage is much more than a ceremony. It is a journey of faith, a process of becoming one, an openness to God's love and God's gift of life. In order to help you prepare for such an important commitment, we offer you our prayers and support. Also, you will be asked to complete the process of preparation outlined below. If there is anything we can do to help, please contact Maria Costa or your priest/deacon (961-3023; [www.stpaulchurch.com](http://www.stpaulchurch.com)).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Be sure you are a registered parishioner. You are urged to attend Mass weekly and pray together every day! Also, remember that effective communication is key to any successful relationship so talk, talk, talk! (It is also good to say hello to your priest or deacon each weekend so he gets to know you!)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make an appointment to speak to Maria Costa at least six months in advance. You will need to meet with her about at least six times during these months. At the first meeting, please let her know which priest or deacon you would like to preside at your wedding as well as possible dates. Weddings are normally scheduled at 12 or 2pm on Saturdays and rehearsals are Fridays at 5pm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In order to reserve the Church, a \$150 deposit is required. Please note: No one will be denied a wedding due to lack of funds. The remaining \$350 is due two weeks before the wedding. This covers the stipend to the presider, musicians, and altar server, as well as marriage preparation materials supplied by the parish. It does not cover the diocesan preparation programs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If you are Catholic, you will need a recent baptism certificate. If you are a Christian of another faith tradition, please bring in a copy of your baptism certificate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You will both be asked to complete a "marriage application" form ["A" form].
- \_\_\_\_\_ You will both need two witnesses to sign a form testifying that you are free to enter marriage ["B" form].
- \_\_\_\_\_ Depending on your individual circumstance, other forms may be required. Maria will inform you if this is necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You must also complete the "PMI" or *Premarital Inventory* or *FOCUS*. This is not a test but an instrument designed to help couples prepare for their life together. You will be working with a couple from our parish and Maria.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You will both need to complete a diocesan marriage preparation program at the Bethany Center in Lutz. Reserve your date early. You will be provided a brochure with all the information. If you can't attend, please talk to your Maria about alternative programs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You are to attend at least the first session of *Natural Family Planning (Couple to Couple League)*: Tom & Regina Chadwick - 813-898-8817). The cost for the introductory session is \$1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ One month before your wedding, meet with your priest or deacon to plan your wedding and contact music director Mary Gant (961-3023) to select your music. A volunteer wedding coordinator will be there to help you at both the rehearsal and wedding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secure your Marriage License. Call the County Clerk for information. Please give it to Maria at least a week *before* the rehearsal. (It costs \$93.50 and is good for 60 days.) Be sure to get a certificate from Maria beforehand – you will get a discount of \$32.50!

Note: Please keep in contact with us and notify us of any changes of address, phone numbers, etc.

**May our God of Love continue to bless you throughout these important days.**