

What does marriage preparation entail?

First of all, no other wedding plans should be made until you meet with the pastor. Depending upon your situation, some may find they are in need of an annulment prior to beginning any marriage preparation. This could delay the process.

At your initial meeting with the pastor, you will discuss your present situation:

Your faith denominations, where you were baptized, etc.

Previous attempts to marry or any previous marriages of the couple

Your present status (which parish you are registered, residence, etc.)

A FOCCUS questionnaire will be completed by each of you. In this process, you will be given a series of statements. You will need to indicate if you agree, disagree or are uncertain about each statement. Each fills in an answer sheet. Those answers are input into a program. The couple will later meet with a trained facilitator from our parish to go through the results. There is no pass or fail. Instead, it is meant to help you talk about any differences you may have.

Each of you will be asked to have someone come in to the parish office to complete what is called an Affidavit of Freedom to Marry form. This should be someone you have known for a very long time (usually a parent or older sibling), that can verify that you are free to marry.

Both of you will also be expected to attend a Marriage Preparation Day. These are usually held bi-annually at Holy Rosary Parish in Medford. We will provide you with those dates. You are expected to register for the one day session. You will be given a certificate of completion at the end of the day. This certificate needs to be returned to Good Shepherd for your marriage file.

Other forms may be required, depending upon your situation.

Closer to the wedding, you will be given a book listing options for readings and more. A sheet is included for the couple to complete listing the order of the service. The couple should complete all the information on the sheet regarding the service (readings, readers, number of bridesmaids and groomsmen, etc.) and return it to the pastor. Our parish does not supply music for weddings. It will be your responsibility to contact a musician and any singers you may want.