



Dear Engaged Couple,

Greetings and congratulations on your engagement! I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with you on your marriage preparation and/or upcoming wedding.

At St Francis Xavier, it is our joy and responsibility to help you prepare for your marriage. As a sacrament, matrimony occurs within the community of believers and we are blessed to witness your wedding as a parish.

Our program consists of three required sessions: the Financial workshop, the Liturgy workshop, and finally, the Engaged Retreat. The dates vary from year to year, but usually take place in March and April.

As you may know, we require that you begin the process at least 6 months prior to your wedding date. If you haven't yet met with one of our priests, please call the parish office to make an appointment at your earliest convenience. Following your initial interview with the priest, you will need to meet with me to start your paperwork. At that time, I will give you a packet of materials which includes a checklist of all required documentation, our fee schedule and music and environment guidelines. As you plan your ceremony, remember, it is a Holy Sacrament of the Church that you give to each other. As such, please give the same energy to your marriage preparation as you do to your reception and other details.

We have a terrific and vibrant team of lay ministers here at St Francis Xavier, including our sponsor couples and our liturgy coordinators. You will be assigned a sponsor couple following the April retreat who will work with you on a Pre-Marital Inventory and will be there for you to go over the results and any other concerns you have as you approach your married life together. If you are marrying here, we will have a liturgy coordinator meet with you to help you plan your ceremony and will be present with you to help conduct the rehearsal and wedding ceremony so that everything goes smoothly and according to church liturgy requirements.

I encourage you to contact the music director to set up a time to meet as our musicians tend to get booked, especially during the busy summer months.

Finally, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Susan Standley

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