

Marriage Preparation Handout

St. Mary's—Altoona, WI & St. Raymond—Fall Creek, WI

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to assisting you as you plan for this important celebration of your faith. The Catholic Church values the sacrament of marriage very highly and wants all couples to have successful marriages that bring them happiness and joy! As with all the sacraments, adequate preparations are essential if the sacrament is to reach its full potential.

To help you prepare for the sacrament, the Catholic Church leads you through a comprehensive marriage preparation process. You will learn more about your personal values—how you view money, work, sex, children, and extended family. The process will also help you deepen your understanding of a Christian marriage. Marriage preparation includes:

- Discussions with a mentoring couple
- FOCCUS inventory & discussion
- Online Natural Family Planning course
- Marriage retreat
- 2 meetings with the pastor/other priest

Your first step should always be to schedule an appointment with the pastor. This allows the pastor/other priest to ensure that there is nothing standing in the way of celebrating the sacrament of marriage. It also allows us to secure your wedding date on our parish calendar. One important piece of information that we need is the place and date of your baptism. If you have a copy of your baptismal certificate, please bring it to you initial meeting (regardless of religion). The pastor will also walk you through the subsequent steps of the preparation process.

After the initial meeting, it is important that you contact your mentoring couple and the wedding coordinator to begin the preparation process. Once you've completed the steps, you will meet with Father or the presider to talk about what you've learned and reflect on marriage as a covenant and sacrament. We find that couples have a much more enriching experience if they have all the steps finished 4-6 months before the wedding. That will leave you free for all your "event planning" at the end.

Further Questions: If at any time you have questions please contact the wedding coordinator. In all matters, the final decision rests with the pastor.

St. Mary's and St. Raymond Pastor
Fr. Derek Sakowski
(715)855-1294, ext. 101

Wedding Coordinator
Kaylee Peikert
(715)855-1294, ext. 142 or Kaylee.peikert@gmail.com