



**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**IGLESIA CATOLICA DE SAN JOSE**  
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## **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY INFORMATION**

**Canon 1055.** The **Matrimonial covenant**, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ Jesus the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament (between two baptized).

- The **minimum preparation** of the sacrament of Marriage in the Diocese of Fort Worth is **ten (10) months**. **No definite wedding date** is set until the parish received the letter of permission from the bishop for free to marry.
- The couple is of legal age.
- Proof of sacraments received:
  - A **newly issued Baptismal certificate with notations** should be secured from the church of reception and presented. (valid within 6 months at the start of marriage preparation process)
  - Photocopies of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist (bring the original to make copies).
- Set an appointment to the pastor or clergy and kindly bring the sacramental records / certificates on the day of the appointment.

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### **Required Classes for Marriage Preparation:**

**Pre-Cana Classes** – is one-day (Sat. 9AM – 4:30PM) or two-evening (weeknight. 6:30PM – 9:30PM) on-site experience for engaged couples to begin their Formal marriage preparation process. The course includes a series of talks and activities on topics such as: marriage as sacrament, the vows, sexuality in the marriage as God planned.

**Fully-Engaged** – is a sponsor-couple program for engaged couple to help them learn more about the sacrament of Matrimony. It is a Catholic-catechetical premarital inventory designed to help engaged couples solidify the foundation upon which they, together with Christ; will build their sacrament of marriage.

Grounded in church teaching and loaded with catechetical content, this dynamic premarital inventory is trustworthy guide that meets the real challenges today's couples faces.

**Natural Family Planning** – During each cycle, a woman experience times of fertility and infertility accompanied by specific signs. All natural practice of observing and charting these fertility signs to determine accurately when a woman is fertile and when she is infertile.

**Today-Tomorrow-Forever** (for Marriage Validation only) – on-site enrichment experience for married couples to discover more about themselves – to discuss hopes, expectations, and dreams for their life together. It is an opportunity for couples to put aside their regular routines to focus on their relationship and to develop new techniques to strengthen their marriage. (Topics discussed: marriage as a sacrament, commitment, communication, conflict resolution and intimacy.)

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**Required documents for all Marriages:** [to secure permission from the bishop]

- ☐ Prenuptial Questionnaire, including for a convalidation (TCC Form V)
- ☐ Baptismal certificates (issued within last 6 months with notations – for Catholic parties); for Groom and / or bride.
- ☐ Proof of Baptism (Trinitarian Baptism) – Baptized Non-Catholic party
- ☐ Petition for Dispensation or Permission, if applicable (TCC Form III)
- ☐ Witness Affidavit of Freedom to Marry (TCC Form II) 2 for Groom & 2 for bride.
- ☐ Proof that marriage preparation was completed – see addendum
  - Theological Formation: Pre-Cana or Today, tomorrow & forever certificate.
  - Life Skills Formation: Fully Engaged Comparison Results Sheet or Sponsor Couple Feedback Form.
  - Natural Family Planning: NFP Planning (full course) certificate.
- ☐ Copy of Marriage License

**Additional requirements for person with prior Marriage(s):**

- ☐ Decree(s) of Declaration of Invalidity, for any previous marriage(s) for either or both parties.
- ☐ Decree(s) of Lack of Canonical Form, for any previous marriage(s) for either or both parties.