

# Steps to Get Married

**These steps give a general overview on how to get married in the Catholic Church.**

As you plan your marriage, we welcome you as Christ welcomes you, with understanding, love, and acceptance, to challenge you with the gospel message, and give you hope that a lifelong commitment is possible. We hope you experience this hospitality and welcoming throughout your marriage preparation process. It is in this spirit that we offer you these Steps to Get Married in the Catholic Church.

## 1. Before you set a Date:

Please contact your parish 9 to 12 months in advance to discuss dates, the Nuptial Mass and Marriage Preparation.

## 2. Pre-Cana & TTF Class

### ▪ Pre-Cana: (Pre-Marital)

This class gives the couple a theological foundation for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Register on-line at the Diocesan website (<https://fwdioc.org/pre-cana-class>)

## Pre-Cana Class

Pre-Cana is available in-person or online.

The in-person class is a one-day (Saturday) class. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Meals and materials are included in your fee.

The online course consists of four (4) videos and quizzes. The course includes topics such as the nature of marriage, the meaning of marital consent, marriage as a sacrament, and more.



## Registration

To register, click on the date below that you wish to attend. The registration fee is \$150 per couple. If registration is closed, please choose a different date.

### ▪ Today-Tomorrow-Forever (Convalidation or Sanatio)

Register on-line at the Diocesan website (<https://fwdioc.org/today-tomorrow-forever>)

## Today-Tomorrow-Forever

**CONVALIDATION** is not a blessing of an existing valid union. Rather, it is a ceremony wherein a free act of marital consent is made in the Church which makes a preexisting union valid and true. If both parties are baptized, this validation makes the couple participants in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Through the sacramental bond created, the couple will enjoy the promise of supernatural grace as long as they both shall live.

Today-Tomorrow-Forever is available in-person or online.

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The online course consists of four (4) videos and quizzes. The course includes topics such as the nature of marriage, the meaning of marital consent, marriage as a sacrament, and more.



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## 3. Fully Engaged

We will assign you a Mentor Couple that will speak to you regarding the results of the Inventory test.

### Fully Engaged

This parish level program is part of marriage preparation. **You will need to contact your parish and speak with the Marriage Coordinator.**

Fully Engaged is a Sponsor Couple program for engaged couples (as well as those seeking Convalidation) to help them learn more about the Sacrament of Matrimony. It is a Catholic premarital inventory designed to help couples solidify the foundation upon which they, together with Christ, will build their life together. Grounded in Church teaching, this premarital inventory is a trustworthy guide which meets the real challenges couples face.



[Website](#)

Couples who complete the Fully Engaged program are eligible for the [Twogether in Texas](#) program, which offers a \$60 discount and waives the waiting period for a marriage license. Please contact your parish to obtain the Twogether in Texas certificate.

## 4. Natural Family Planning (NFP)

Register on-line at the Diocesan website

(<https://diocesefortworth.regfox.com/online-nfp-registration>)

Complete a full course of Natural Family Planning. Classes can be taken locally at many parishes or online. Register on-line at the Diocesan website.

What is NFP?

During each cycle a woman experiences times of fertility and infertility accompanied by specific signs. Natural Family Planning is the practice of observing and charting these fertility signs to determine accurately when a woman is fertile and when she is infertile. When you want to achieve pregnancy, NFP helps you identify the most fertile time. When you want to avoid pregnancy, you abstain from genital contact during the fertile time.

## 5. Get Certificates!

Baptism:

You will need to get your baptismal certificate, with notations, from your church of baptism. The certificate must be issued within 6 months of your wedding.

Confirmation:

If you are confirmed, we will need a copy of that certificate if it is NOT included in the notations on your Baptism certificate.

**Everything above MUST be completed 60 days prior to your wedding! (90 days if getting married in a different diocese). New diocesan requirements state that we must have everything sent in no later than 30 days prior to the wedding. Thank you in advance!**