

Dear Couples:

The pastoral team at Holy Spirit Catholic Community is at your service as you begin to live Christ's presence in your marriage.

Sacramental marriage offers you the help of God in every action of your married life. You will have God's grace in your marriage as you accept the many responsibilities of your "richly complex love."

We are joyful with you, and thank you for allowing us to assist you in planning for and living your sacrament.

Fr. John Worster

208-680-0608



We praise & bless You, O God.
In your wisdom You have
drawn us together
In love for one another.

Strengthen our hearts,
so that we may keep
faith with each other and
please You in all things.

With Your help may we one day
Joyfully celebrate
our marriage.

Graciously hear us
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Planning
A
Catholic
Marriage
In
Idaho



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

IN THE DIOCESE OF BOISE

- **Consult your parish priest, deacon or other parish minister at least (4) months in advance of the intended date of marriage.**

As you begin this process of preparation you will need to complete paper work and establish your freedom to marry. The parish minister helping you will explain to you what this involves. After you have completed the paper work and all other details in this initial process, you may set a date and time for your marriage. Also at this time the parish minister will discuss with you diocesan and parish policies for marriage.

- **Attend a marriage preparation program.**

You can get information about Engaged Encounter and other recommended or required programs from the parish minister assisting you.

- **Fill out the required questionnaires.**

One questionnaire inquires about your beliefs, attitudes and intentions with regard to marriage. Another questionnaire should help you evaluate your compatibility. Usually each individual fills out these questionnaires separately.

- **Provide the necessary documents.**

This step can be time consuming so don't let it go until the last minute

Baptismal Certificates: Catholics must obtain a recent baptismal certificate from the parishes in which they were baptized. "Recent certificate" means one dated within six months of the wedding date. Other Christians should confirm the fact of their baptism by a similar certificate or letter from the Church where they were baptized.

Testimony of Freedom: A parent, relative, or long-time friend must testify that you are not already married and that you are marrying freely. The person assisting you will provide the form that your witness needs to complete. If you have been married before in any form, civil or religious, make this known when you first meet with the parish minister about your wedding. You may need to supply a death certificate for your previous spouse, or a declaration of nullity issued by a diocesan tribunal (an annulment), or a decree of freedom also issued by a diocesan tribunal.

Parental Consent: If one or both of you are under 21 years of age, you will need a letter from your parents or guardians stating their consent to your marriage.

Evidence of Preparation: You will need some indication you have participated in a marriage preparation program. Save the card, letter or certificate you receive and present it to the parish minister assisting you.

- **Obtain any necessary special permission or dispensations.**

Some marriages require a special permission or dispensation; for example, when you plan to marry a baptized person who is not Catholic, a person who is not baptized, or when you plan to be married before someone other than a Catholic Bishop, priest or deacon. The person assisting you will apply for these, but be sure to allow plenty of time.

- **Plan the wedding ceremony.**

Begin early in the preparation process to make prayerful choices about the wedding ceremony with the help of the officiating priest or deacon. The Catholic *Rite of Marriage* provides a variety of prayers and scripture readings. Consider what you would like to share with your family and friends. Please remember to select music appropriate to this sacred ceremony.

You should seek the help of the parish music director. The parish minister assisting you can help guide you through this planning and can let you know about the diocesan regulations for weddings.

Schedule the wedding rehearsal well in advance of the date. Invite to the rehearsal all who have a special part in the ceremony. Make sure that they put this on their calendar and remind them to be on time.

Choose a good reader(s) who can proclaim the Word of God in all its richness.

Customarily, you make an offering to the parish, to music ministers, and to others who will assist you on your wedding day.

- **Obtain a civil marriage license.**

A priest or deacon cannot perform the ceremony without an Idaho marriage license. In many jurisdictions, a marriage license is valid for only 60 days, so don't get it too soon. Both of you must appear in person at the county courthouse to apply for a marriage license. At the time of application you will be asked to read a pamphlet on AIDS and to sign the statement. The State of Idaho does not require a blood test, but you would be wise to obtain one for your personal knowledge and family records. When you get the license, do not fill in the information. The priest or deacon who officiated at your wedding will take care of that. Give the license to the priest or deacon no later than the wedding rehearsal.

- **Prepare spiritually.**

Pray, read the Bible and participate in other religious activities. The Church encourages Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a means for entering more fully onto the holy mystery of marriage.