preparation for
HOLY MATRIMONY

Steps toward Sacramental Marriage in the Diocese of Austin

Marriage is more than a wedding day — it is a lifelong vocation that requires careful discernment and preparation. The Diocese of Austin has particular guidelines for couples preparing for marriage to assist couples in building happy, life-long relationships.

- Couples should contact their local parish and make an appointment to speak with a priest or deacon about the upcoming wedding. The priest or deacon and/or parish staff will provide assistance in completing necessary paperwork and scheduling the church.
- At least 6 months prior to the wedding date, couples should take a premarital inventory, such as the FOCCUS or PREPARE. This assessment is most often offered at the parish, but if the parish does not yet have a trained facilitator, couples may call the Family Life Office at 512-949-2492.
- Take a formal marriage preparation course, such as "Together in God's Love" or another course approved by the Diocese. This is most often offered in the parish or deanery. A few "Together in God' s Love" retreats and class sessions are offered by the diocesan office each year to assist parishes and deaneries that do not yet have trained marriage prep teams.
- Couples must take at least a one-hour introduction to Natural Family Planning (full course preferred), led by certified instructors, approved by the Diocese. Please refer to the website link below for list of classes.

www.austindiocese.org/nfp

- Remain in prayer together as you approach the day you will take your vows. Remember that, despite all of the practical preparations for the wedding, the spiritual preparations for the marriage are most important.