

**CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION**

2025 WOODMAN DRIVE • KETTERING, OH 45420

Dear Engaged Couple:

Congratulations on your decision to marry. This is an important step, one that will affect you in many special ways for the rest of your life.

Both the Catholic Church and we at Ascension recognize the serious nature of your decision. Likewise, it is a tremendous challenge to make a marriage work in today's society and culture. When both husband and wife keep God's presence alive in their marriage, the chances of a successful marriage increase significantly. God can make a difference, and your faith can make a difference too.

Yes, the Sacrament of Marriage is an important step, and we at Ascension want to help you take this step thoughtfully, reflectively, and joyfully. This is why Ascension follows the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's guideline which requires that each couple participate in the marriage preparation process for at least six months.

This time is meant to allow you sufficient time to reflect on the sacramental commitment that you will be making in your marriage. While we certainly pray that you have a good wedding day, it is the marriage commitment that is most important. This marriage commitment will last a lifetime.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati states that a wedding between a Catholic person and a non-Catholic person will be celebrated outside of Mass. A wedding outside of Mass is just as permanent, just as effective, and just as valid as a wedding within Mass. Since deacons are ordained to celebrate weddings outside of Mass, it is the policy of Ascension parish that one of our deacons will preside at the wedding between a Catholic and a non-Catholic. The pastor will preside at the wedding Mass between two Catholics, unless other arrangements are made.

Please complete the enclosed forms and return them to the parish office. After I have received the information, one of the deacons or I will contact you to make an appointment to meet with you both. Please know that Ascension is blessed to celebrate this union with you.

Yours in Christ,

Father Ed Pratt
Pastor