

Wedding Information for St. Francis by the Sea Parishioners

The Rite of Marriage is most properly celebrated in the parish church of the bride or groom. To receive proper spiritual preparation for the sacrament of marriage and to understand the requirements for the wedding day, the Diocese of Charleston requires that this preparation start at least 6 months before the wedding date.

If either the bride or groom is a registered member of St. Francis by the Sea and an active member of at least 6 months, they should contact the parish office at 843-681-6350 or by e-mail at office-@stfrancishhi.org to set up a meeting with a priest or deacon to complete the Diocese of Charleston's Prenuptial Questionnaire. *A requested marriage date will not be reserved until this meeting and questionnaire is completed.*

The wedding coordinator will work with the couple to prepare a marriage preparation plan. Marriage preparation usually begins with the program FOCCUS, Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study. This questionnaire is administered at the first meeting with a parish couple that is assigned to sponsor the marriage couple. Normally, the marriage couple will have four meetings with the sponsor couple to facilitate preparation. Attending an Engaged Encounter weekend or Living a Joyfilled Marriage session are alternative marriage preparation classes.

At St. Francis by the Sea, the sacrament of marriage between two Catholics will always be celebrated within the Mass. The Wedding Guidelines and the "Together for Life" booklet will be given to the couple to aid in planning the wedding liturgy. A Music Planning Guide will also be provided so that the couple can meet with the parish Music Director; all wedding music must be approved by our Music Director.

If the couple will be moving from the area and knows where they will be living after the wedding, it is recommended that they register at the parish they will be attending and if possible meet with that pastor.