

Getting Married in the DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

Congratulations on your engagement! Preparation and instruction are essential to being married in the Catholic Church. This guide will help you to plan for marriage in the Diocese of Evansville.

Contact a priest or deacon

- When? After you become engaged and at least six months before the anticipated date of the wedding.
- Why? Six months allows time for you to meet with the priest or deacon in order to receive preparation for marriage at the parish, begin the required pre-nuptial investigation, schedule the Pre-Marriage Inventory, and discuss a possible wedding date.
- If the preparation occurs in this diocese, but the marriage is to take place in a different diocese, additional time is necessary for coordination with the other diocese.
- If you or your intended spouse has ever been previously married, please note that a declaration of nullity (annulment) is a requirement. This is a separate investigation to determine if one is free to be married in the Catholic Church and requires additional time.
- If this will be a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, additional permission or dispensations are necessary and will be requested from the Tribunal by the priest or deacon in the diocese where the Catholic party resides.

Take a Pre-Marriage Inventory

- Most parishes in the diocese use FOCCUS®, a self-diagnostic tool that is designed to help you learn more about yourself, your proposed spouse, and your unique relationship.
- You will complete an Inventory that addresses critical issues such as family backgrounds, faith, finances, communication, problem solving, and intimacy and sexuality.
- Over the course of several meetings, you discuss the results with each other and a trained facilitator, usually the priest or deacon.

Register for and attend a marriage preparation program

- The preparation program offers focused time for you to examine your readiness for lifelong marriage and family life through sustained interaction and reflection with your proposed spouse.
- Most parishes use the Sponsor Couple or Engaged Encounter programs.
- To find out more, talk to your priest or deacon or go to the Catholic Charities engagement and marriage website: www.ccevansville.org/engagement-and-marriage.html.

Consult with your priest or deacon and obtain a marriage license

- Discuss any issues or concerns, review the details of the wedding liturgy such as the music and readings you have selected, and complete the preparation process.
- Be sure to obtain your marriage license at least one month, but no more than 60 days, before the ceremony. If the wedding is to take place in another state, those laws may vary. Take the license to your priest or deacon.

Attend your wedding rehearsal

- The rehearsal date and time is determined by you and your priest or deacon, and takes place at your church.

Enjoy your wedding day!

