

# St. Mary's Parish

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Dear Engaged Couple,

Spring 2018

Congratulations on your decision to get married at one of the three worship sites of St. Mary's Parish. Marriage is a special sacrament of service within the Church. I am thrilled that you have chosen to celebrate this sacrament here. We hope we can serve you as you look prepare for and come together here on your wedding day

Weddings are special, joyful times for couples, for their families and friends and for the parish community. On behalf of our whole parish we welcome you and pledge anything we can do to make your preparation, wedding and lifetime of married love the best it can be.

For believing Catholics, matrimony is a sacrament, a visible sign of God's invisible blessings and of the Lord's presence in our lives. Great care is taken to see that the prayers, readings and songs for this special moment are reverent, graceful and open to the movement of God's spirit among us. As Catholics, we celebrate the sacraments as a community and invite our brothers and sisters in faith to join us and ask for their prayerful support. The presence of relatives and friends adds to the joy and thanksgiving of this special moment. The celebration is always a public celebration of the parish family and the whole Church. You are preparing for one of the most important moments of your life. In our Catholic faith, it is you who will make the bond. Your words and the stuff in your heart will be brought before God and his church in a way that makes blessing, makes sacrament. This is huge! Make today the day you rely on God's grace and love. Practice your faith, pray together as a couple, be part of a parish community that supports and nourishes you, go to Mass each week and frequently receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The first step is connecting with the rectory. If you are from the parish or plan on doing your preparation through our priests or deacons we will be in touch to begin your marriage file.

Some of our couples come from outside our parish and are completing the preparation process you're your priest or deacon from your home parish. In order to make sure there are no surprises nor last minute challenges, we want to outline the things we will be needing. I have developed a description of the marriage process and what we need for your marriage file. In the end your marriage will be recorded in our parish records and the marriage file will be kept here at St. Mary's in perpetuity. We want to make sure the file is complete and our information is correct. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to the person that is preparing you, or call me.

It is our firm belief that God has brought you together. It will be God's grace and love that nourishes and sustains you. May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bring to completion the good work He has begun in you. May God bless you!

Fr. Brian McGrath