



---

# ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

---

Wedding Preparation Only – No Ceremony

# **Contact Information**

Pastor- Fr. Sunoj Thomas

816-436-0880 ext. 214 (office)

816-436-0880 ext. 503 (rectory)

Parish Office Support – Edie Ferrara or Sarah Simon

816-436-0880

FOCCUS Facilitators-Deacon Vic and Cathy Quiason

816-679-7189

Updated- August 2023

## Marriage Preparation Process

### 1) Initial Interview

After you become engaged, please contact the parish office to schedule a meeting with Fr. Thomas to speak about marriage with you and your fiancée. At the initial meeting issues such as previous marriages, age requirements, and a general outline of the preparation process will be discussed. You will also complete the Marriage Preparation form. Allow approximately one hour for this meeting.

### 2) FOCCUS

**FOCCUS** is a relationship inventory that you will complete with Vic and Cathy Quiason. The inventory will compare your individual beliefs and perspectives with these of your future spouse in a minimum of eleven important categories. It will identify and affirm your relationship strengths as a couple, and any areas that need more attention and growth. In your feedback sessions with your facilitators, you will go over all the FOCCUS results, and have the opportunity to address any of the challenges or growth areas that were identified.

At the completion of your appointments, the Quiasons will provide a written report for use by the priest or deacon who will witness your marriage and the lead couple that will guide you through the marriage process. This report summarizes the FOCCUS inventory.

#### **Fee for FOCCUS Inventory:**

You are responsible for the \$50 FOCCUS inventory. This includes your meeting with the facilitators and the other administrative costs: purchasing and getting you set up to take the FOCCUS on-line and having it scored; getting it ready for your feedback sessions; and writing the final report.

#### **Your financial commitment for Marriage Preparation:**

You can plan around **your cost being a minimum of \$200**. Each couple's situation will be unique and adjusted as necessary for their needs. If any additional time or sessions are needed, to complete your work together, this amount will be adjusted according to your individual Marriage Preparation process.

Our goal is to partner with you and provide supportive, quality services that will help you build a strong foundation for your marriage and a healthy, happy relationship and future together.

### 3) ***“THRIVE!”***

(Engaged couples MAY make their own arrangements to attend NFP orientation. It is NOT a requirement. NFP is included in *THRIVE!*)

*THRIVE!* is an online option for engaged couples to prepare for marriage. The dual focus on human and spiritual development makes this program different than others now available as it presents scientifically proven research-based relationship development and women's health. The engaged will learn about cutting edge brain science and positive psychology, in addition to the theological vision of marriage, insights from Theology of the Body, practical guidance for managing finances, developing a life of prayer and virtue, and making intentional decisions about how they make their new home a domestic church in which everyone *THRIVES!*

**Cost: \$200 per couple. Paid on Website – [KCSJ/family.org/Thrive](http://KCSJ/family.org/Thrive)**

*Natural Family Planning is included in Thrive.*

**OPTIONAL- Natural Family Planning:** There are many advantages of Natural Family Planning (NFP). This highly effective method is 100% natural with no health risks as it involves no potential harmful birth control drugs or devices and increases health awareness. NFP costs significantly less than other forms of family planning and is helpful for achieving pregnancy. Most couples report that NFP has a positive effect on their marriage. You can take the Natural Family Planning training. It is offered here locally. Two organizations offer it so check both websites for locations, dates, and cost. **Costs range \$120 - \$175\*\*.** Visit the websites: [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) and [www.fertilitycarekc.com](http://www.fertilitycarekc.com) to find the program that best fits your schedule.

### 4) **Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is recommended for every Catholic prior to marriage. Because the beginning of a life together is a turning point, it is fitting that this new beginning be celebrated with a heart fully free from sin.

### 5) **Testimony/Marriage Registration Form**

In the Catholic Church there is a testimony each party for marriage must give to the priest or deacon who will witness their union. It is a testimony, under oath, that states your freedom and desire to be married in the Catholic Church, your understanding of the duties and responsibilities of marriage, and your understanding of the Catholic Church's teaching on children in marriage. This testimony must be completed before the marriage takes place. You will meet with a Priest 6-8 weeks before your wedding to complete your Testimony/Marriage Registration Form.

**If your marriage is between a Catholic and a non-Catholic or unbaptized person, additional time will be required for permission from the diocese or other jurisdictions.**

## Documents You Will Need

1. **Baptismal Certificate.** Each Catholic needs a **new** copy of his/her baptismal certificate issued no more than **six months** prior to the date of the wedding and signed by the current pastor of the parish. Older copies or the original cannot be accepted. You may obtain this by contacting the parish in which you were baptized. For a baptized non-Catholic, a certificate (even a copy) of Christian baptism is likewise needed for our file.

2. **Marriage license from the state of Missouri.** You can contact any county in the state of Missouri to obtain a marriage license good for a wedding anywhere in the state. Both parties must appear together at the Recorder of Deeds office. There is no longer a required blood test or a three-day wait; however, the license is only valid for thirty days.

In Clay County, there are two locations at which you can apply in person:

1 Courthouse Sq  
Liberty, MO 64068

1901 NE 48 St  
Kansas City, MO 64118

The county information line for wedding licenses is 816-407-3550 or  
[www.claycountymo.gov/Recorder of Deeds/Marriage License](http://www.claycountymo.gov/Recorder_of_Deeds/Marriage_License)

When you apply you must have a valid federal identification or a passport and your social security number. The fee for a marriage license is \$51.00 and may be paid by cash, credit card (except American Express) or debit card at the time of the application. If the bride chooses to have her name changed after the wedding ceremony, a certified copy of the marriage license may be purchased for an additional \$10.00. The certified copy is needed by the bride to present to agencies such as the Drivers License Bureau and Social Security Administration to effect a name change.

You should bring your license to the wedding rehearsal. It will be signed by the maid/matron of honor and the best man after the wedding.

3. **Testimonial Document/Marriage Registration Form**-You will meet with the priest or deacon 6-8 weeks prior to your wedding to complete this form.
4. **Annulments and Dispensations (If applicable.)** If an annulment or dispensation is required certain documents are necessary in order for a sacramental marriage to take place.