

Marriage Preparation
St. Luke Catholic Church
Indianapolis, Indiana

Before beginning sacramental marriage preparation and setting a wedding date at St. Luke Catholic Church, one of the following criteria must be met by the bride and/or groom:

1. The Catholic must be a registered stewardship member of St. Luke Catholic Church for the six months prior to the initial meeting with the priest.
2. Parents must be registered stewardship members of St. Luke Catholic Church for the six months prior to the initial meeting with the priest, and the Catholic bride and/or groom be a registered stewardship member in their home parish for the six months prior to the initial meeting with the priest
3. The Catholic is a registered stewardship member of another parish for the six months prior to the initial meeting with the priest, and formerly been a parishioner at St. Luke Catholic Church
4. The non-Catholic bride or groom grew up or lives in the St. Luke Catholic Church area, and the Catholic bride or groom is a registered stewardship member of a parish outside of Marion or Hamilton Counties, Indiana

A registered stewardship member is one who has formally registered as an adult head of household, attends Saturday evening/Sunday mass at the parish at least once a month, and contributes to the parish through offering envelopes or by check in the Saturday evening/Sunday collection basket or contributes through direct deposit.

At the initial meeting with the priest, at least six months prior to the wedding, the following items will be discussed:

1. The wedding date and time, and the rehearsal date and time if known. The priest will discuss his availability and the church's availability, and the wedding date and time will be set.
2. The Sponsor Couple Program (usually 3 meetings) and PREPARE Inventory will be explained. All couples must complete the PREPARE Inventory (or similar instrument such as FOCCUS). Bring your checkbook to the first meeting with the Sponsor Couple.
3. The TOBIT Weekend will be explained. All couples attend the TOBIT Weekend.
4. The Natural Family Planning program will be explained. All couples attend the first NFP class (there are four classes total, but you only need attend the first class). If there are scheduling conflicts, the NFP class may be taken after the wedding ceremony.
5. The "Preparation for Marriage" form will be filled out, baptismal records and letter(s) from the pastor of the home parish of the Catholic party(ies) discussed, and if needed the appropriate dispensation forms will be completed. The procedures for obtaining a marriage license will also be discussed.
6. Music, decorations, photography and video guidelines are also discussed.

After the couple has completed the Sponsor Couple Program, TOBIT Weekend and the NFP class, the couple meets with the priest for review, and discuss the theology of marriage. The "Together for Life" wedding planning booklet is reviewed.

About two to four weeks prior to the wedding, the couple will meet with the priest to finalize the wedding ceremony plans.

At anytime during the preparation process the engaged couple, together or individually, may meet with the priest to talk about any concerns.

Wedding Ceremonies

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Weddings are not scheduled for more than 18 months in advance at St. Luke Catholic Church.

Wedding rehearsals are normally scheduled for 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on the Friday evening prior to a Saturday wedding. On Fridays the church and chapel are in use from 5:00 p.m. (rosary), to 6:00 p.m. (ending time of the 5:30 p.m. mass).

Saturday weddings may be scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., or 7:30 p.m. Only two weddings may be scheduled on the same day (one evening wedding, the other in the morning or afternoon).

For Saturday weddings the church is available for decorating, the ceremony, photographs, and clean-up at these times:

11:30 a.m. weddings - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. weddings - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. weddings - 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Arrangements may be made for weddings on other days of the week.

Please call the parish office on the Thursday afternoon prior to a Saturday wedding to see if a funeral has been scheduled for the day of the wedding. If none have been scheduled, the church, chapel, and Father Courtney Reception Room may be available for an earlier or later decorating, photography and clean-up time.