

# Wedding & Marriage Prep FAQs

## 1 What is the first step in the process once we are engaged?

The first step is to contact the parish secretary at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org) as soon as possible to request a Wedding Policies booklet and Wedding Request form. It is highly recommended that you reserve the church prior to reserving a reception venue.

## 2 What are St. Gertrude Church's and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Pre-Cana (marriage prep) requirements?

- All engaged couples must be free to marry. They are also required to complete a Fully Engaged Inventory online (link will be provided).
- The engaged couple must complete three Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes. Upon completing the three NFP classes, the couple is given a Certificate of Completion, which they give to the preparing priest for him to place in their marriage file. More information on NFP classes is in the Wedding Policies booklet.
- The engaged couple must complete a marriage preparation program approved by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. St. Gertrude Church has its own program that consists of eight meetings (four with the preparing priest, four with a mentor couple). Prior to each of the four meetings, the assigned mentor couple will give the engaged couple an assignment from the Fully Engaged workbook. Please refer to the Wedding Policies booklet for more information on marriage prep.

## 3 What is the minimum length of time needed to complete all the necessary paperwork and marriage preparation requirements?

The archdiocese requires a minimum of six months from the time you turn in your Wedding Request form until the date of your wedding; however, 9-12+ months is preferred in order to complete all requirements.

## 4 Do we need to find our own organist, soloist, and musicians?

No. Our director of liturgy will be the organist, and our director of music will secure the vocalist and any other musicians you may desire. More information on music is available in the Wedding Policies booklet.