

Church of St. Anne
700 W Bridge St.
Wausau, WI 54401
Phone: (715) 849-3930



Marriage Preparation Program Outline

The following is a schedule of the steps a couple would normally follow in preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Anne's Parish. Special circumstances may require additional steps. These exceptional situations would be explored in the "Initial Contact" or "First Meeting With The Pastor." The following sequence is recommended but may need to be altered in individual cases. A couple may be given a tentative wedding date when they first contact the Church. But the pastor cannot formally agree to witnessing a marriage until after the Pre-Nuptial Investigation which is part of the couple's first meeting with him. If you are not living in Wausau you may want to explore the possibility of doing some of these preparations through a Church near to you. Please feel free to contact the St. Anne's at anytime if questions arise.

Initial Contact (1-2 years prior to wedding) (6 month minimum)

- A. Couple contacts parish
- B. Parish secretary interviews couple by phone to determine whether they are candidates for the marriage preparation program
- C. Parish Secretary sends information packet to couple including:
 1. This Marriage Preparation Program Outline
 2. Schedule of Introductory Meetings
 3. Schedule of Pre-Cana Classes
 4. Guidelines for Weddings at St. Anne's
- D. It is the couple's responsibility to register or make appointments for the following steps.

Wedding Information Meeting (10-12 months prior to the wedding)

- A. Pastor reflects with couples on the meaning of their wedding vows.
- B. Pastor reviews steps of Preparation Program
- C. Questions and answers
- D. Couples fill out FOCCUS Inventory
- E. Couples indicate to priest whether they will take Class or Sponsor Couple program (see below)

First Meeting With The Pastor (9-11 months prior to the wedding)

- A. Pastor completes the Pre-Nuptial Investigation with Couple
- B. Explores need for special preparations (interfaith, previous marriage, etc.)
- C. Please bring a Certificate of Baptism with you to this meeting. These should be gotten by contacting the church where you were baptized, informing them you are getting married and asking them to send a current baptismal certificate. Please keep the original certificates.
- D. Gives the couple materials helpful in planning the wedding celebration.

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Wausau Area Pre-Marriage Program OR Sponsor Couple Program (7-10 months)

- A. Couple participates in one of the Saturday Pre-Marriage Programs offered by the Wausau Deanery or its equivalent. (See brochure enclosed to register)

OR the couple may choose the Sponsor Couple Program. In this program the engaged couple meets with a married couple from the parish five times prior to the wedding. This allows deeper trust and more heartfelt communication to develop. We strongly recommend it. But we realize it may be impossible for couples living out of town and the one day Pre-Marriage program may be best for them. The Sponsor Couple program also takes the place of the Discussion of the Pre-Marital Inventory below.

Discussion of Pre-Marital Inventory (for those not doing the Sponsor Couple Program) (6-9 months prior to the wedding)

- A. Parish Facilitator Contacts Couple to set up a time
- B. Couple meets as many times as necessary to work through the material in the Pre-Marital Inventory (usually one to three meetings)

Second Meeting With Pastor (1-3 months prior to the wedding)

- A. Pastor helps couple prepare the liturgy for the wedding celebration
- B. Schedule the rehearsal if it hasn't been scheduled already.

Rehearsal (Usually the night before the wedding)

The wedding rehearsal may be scheduled at almost any time. Please allow in your planning approximately one hour for the rehearsal in church.

The Wedding Celebration