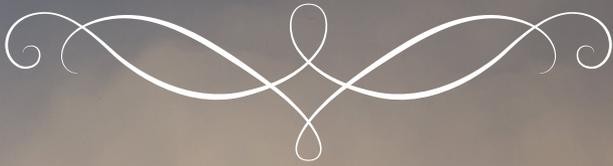


FORMATION FOR

HOLY MATRIMONY



THE DIOCESE OF TYLER

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT! “NOW WHAT DO WE DO?”



1. CALL YOUR PARISH

9-12 months before the wedding

Call as soon as you get engaged! A member of the parish staff will schedule a meeting with you to discuss your wedding preparations as soon as possible.

2. INITIAL MEETING

9 months before the wedding

At this meeting, you'll learn about the formation process for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, the necessary paperwork for your marriage, and set your tentative wedding date.

3. COUPLE INVENTORY

7-8 months before the wedding

The couple inventory provides you with a personalized profile of your relationship. Your parish will set this up for you, and upon completion, they will help you schedule the follow-up session to review your results.

4. WITNESS TO LOVE

7-8 months before the wedding

You will be asked to choose your own marriage mentor couple who will accompany you during your formation and throughout your first few years of marriage using the *Witness to Love* model. You will have several meetings with them in the time leading up to your wedding, and they will continue to be a support to you in the years to come!

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5. THREE TO GET MARRIED RETREAT

6-7 months before the wedding

This retreat weekend will be an opportunity for you to grow closer to Jesus Christ and to one another. Here you will build on the topics you have discussed with your Pastor and your Mentor Couple, with a special focus on the theology of Catholic marriage and other teachings of our Catholic faith. The retreat schedule will be listed on the St. Philip Institute website.

6. NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

5-6 months before the wedding

NFP respects the love-giving and life-giving purposes of marriage, and enriches the bond between husband and wife. This course gives couples a natural approach to understanding the cycles of fertility and infertility. Course listings may be found on the St. Philip Institute website.

7. FINAL MEETING

2 months before the wedding

In this meeting, you will review your previous formation, complete all your paperwork, and plan your wedding liturgy. You're getting close to celebrating this beautiful sacrament!

8. SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

1 week before the wedding

Catholics preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation and the Eucharist are invaluable sources of grace and healing. Celebrate this sacrament with your spouse-to-be!



THE DIOCESE OF TYLER

“The formation and continuing support we give to couples entering into matrimony is perhaps the most important project we undertake.”

-Bishop Joseph Strickland



ST. PHILIP INSTITUTE
OF CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION

Additional Questions?

Contact the St. Philip Institute: Office of Family Life

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www.stphilipinstitute.com/familylife