

Preparation for Marriage at Saint Gerald Church

Preparation for marriage at Saint Gerald complies with the guidelines of the Catholic Church in the State of Michigan and is typical of Catholic parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit.

- At a meeting with a member of the parish pastoral staff, normally the pastor, the couple provides some basic information about each other.
- The couple will be asked to contact the parish deacon. They will receive additional information about a pre-marriage inventory. A pre-marriage inventory, which will be completed on-line, is a series of statements about various elements of the couple's relationship (such as communication, marriage expectations, finances, family and friends, sexuality, children, etc.). Independently, the couple responds by agreeing or disagreeing with the statements and their responses are then collated. The fee for processing the pre-marriage inventory is \$40.00 and is paid on-line with a credit card.
- The couple will meet with the parish deacon to discuss general topics associated with marriage and marriage readiness (typically one to two times).
- The couple meets (typically three times) with another couple from the parish, trained in the use of the inventory, who will review with them the results of the inventory. The goal is to help the couple strengthen their relationship, identify potential areas for growth, and prepare for married life. At the end of these sessions, the engaged couple will receive the "Together for Life" booklet. The St. Gerald married couple will review and explain the importance of reading and understanding this booklet. The title of the booklet says it all. You will be asked to bring this booklet to the meeting with the pastor just before the wedding day and indicate which readings and prayers you prefer to have proclaimed at your wedding.
- The couple will be asked to participate in an On-Location Marriage Preparation Workshop/Seminar. These are normally weekend experiences that expose the engaged couple to additional considerations when making decisions in marriage. This workshop/seminar can be completed during or after meeting with the parish married couple. The parish staff will provide more information. An estimated cost for these workshops/seminars is \$100.00

