

Time Line for Marriage Preparation

Since each couple is unique and each marriage celebration has its own characteristics, this time line is offered only as a general guide to planning your wedding at Saint Gerald Parish.

1 to 2 Years in Advance

- Pick up from the Parish Office a copy of *The Rite of Marriage at Saint Gerald Parish*, which is the folder of materials you are presently reading.
- Read the information carefully.
- Fill out information sheet.
- Contact the Parish Office for an initial appointment. At that time, review the civil and church requirements for marriage, begin the necessary paperwork, and determine a more specific timeline for marriage preparation.
- In any event, guidelines for marriage for Catholics in the State of Michigan require that the initial contact with the parish must be at least six months before the desired wedding date.

6 months to 1 Year in Advance

- Complete the pre-marriage inventory and review it with a couple from the parish.
- Carefully read *Together for Life*, a book provided by the parish that includes the readings, prayers, forms of the vows, etc., which can be used in a Catholic wedding. Begin making selections for the wedding liturgy.
- Contact the music director. The date should be reserved with the music director of the parish regardless of who will provide the music for the wedding.

6 Months in Advance

- Plan the wedding ceremony with the priest or deacon who will witness your vows. Bring *Together for Life* book to meeting with priest/deacon and review how the book works and make selections.
- Set a date for the rehearsal.

2 Months in Advance

- Contact the St. Gerald Music Minister to begin planning and selection of your music.

1 Month in Advance

- Contact Peggy Backus. Provide complete lists of Wedding Party, Reading and Prayer Selections and Music Selections. Set a date for the wedding rehearsal.

1 Week Before the Wedding

- At least two days before the wedding, deliver to the parish office all the copies of the marriage license that you received from the county clerk.
- Complete the rehearsal.

After the Wedding

- Register as a couple in the parish within whose bounds you reside. If you are changing to a new parish, notify your former parish or parishes of your departure.

PLEASE PUT THIS SCHEDULE IN YOUR CALENDARS SO NOTHING IS OVERLOOKED AND EVERYTHING GOES AS PLANNED.