

## **PARISH GUIDELINES FOR MARRIAGE**

The Catholic Community of St. Maximilian Kolbe congratulates you in your decision to explore your Christian vocation through the Sacrament of Marriage. We welcome you, and we are here to guide you and help you in preparing for this sacrament.

**All couples must begin their preparation for marriage at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date.**

1. In order to enter into a sacramental marriage, you must both be “free” to marry. This means that if you have been previously married – civilly, in a church, or common law – that marriage is presumed to be a permanent union, and therefore you cannot enter a marriage preparation process for a second marriage unless:
  - your spouse has died, or
  - your previous marriage has been, or can be, annulled.
2. One of you should be Catholic and should belong to a Catholic parish.
3. In a marriage where only one of the partners is Catholic, both parties must agree to raise any children who are born into this marriage in the Catholic faith.
4. For your preparation and marriage to take place at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish, either the bride or the groom, or one of their families must:
  - Be a registered member of St. Maximilian Kolbe parish; or,
  - Reside within the parish boundaries of St. Maximilian Kolbe parish; or,
  - Have written permission from the Pastor of the Catholic party to celebrate the marriage at St. Maximilian Kolbe.

### Your Initial Meeting

If you meet the above criteria, make an appointment to meet with a Deacon or Priest. They will explain to you the process of marriage preparation and the expectations of the Archdiocese and of the parish in regards to marriage.

### After Your Initial Meeting

After this first meeting, you will begin the remainder of the marriage preparation process. You will receive guidance to arrange the date and time of your wedding and to get it on the Parish Calendar.

The preferable start times for weddings here at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish are on Saturday’s, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or at 7:00 p.m. Weddings are not normally celebrated on Sundays. No solemn wedding is celebrated during the season of Lent.