

Our Lady of Guadalupe/St Patrick Parish

Wedding Planner and Agreement

Dear Couples,

Welcome to the Our Lady of Guadalupe/St Patrick marriage preparation program. Please be assured of our prayers and our dedication to helping you have the best marriage possible. We are grateful to God and to you for your desire to have a valid marriage in the Catholic Church, worth more than any of us could ever know. You will find below a checklist of the various things that we are asking you to complete before your wedding.

____ 1.) **Parish Registration:** If you have not done so already, you'll need to register in our parish and attend Mass every Sunday (FYI: *Saturday evening Mass counts for the Sunday obligation*).

____ 2.) **Previous Marriages:** If you have been married before, to anyone or in any way, contact the Fr. Wertin right away to start the annulment process. We cannot schedule a wedding until the Declaration of Freedom to Marry is granted. We will help you with this process, which may take 9-18 months.

____ 3.) **Interview with Fr. Wertin:** He will help you complete the proper forms, which makes sure everything is clear for a valid marriage in the Church. **You need to bring to this meeting a newly issued, signed and sealed, baptism certificate for Catholics. Another form, available at the parish office, will need to be completed for non-Catholics.** At this meeting you will schedule class sessions with Fr. Wertin, on days and times that are convenient for you.

____ 5.) **Foccus Inventory:** During the process, you will make an appointment to take the Foccus inventory at the parish office. This inventory helps couples enhance their relationship by discussing important topics such as communication, problem-solving, religion, dual careers, parenting, intimacy, finances and more. The Pastor will go over the results with you. Fee is \$15-\$35, paid online when you take the inventory.

____ 6.) **Offering:** The offering for the use of the church has been reduced to \$100.00, non-refundable.

ONCE THE ABOVE STEPS ARE COMPLETE,
THE DATE FOR YOUR WEDDING WILL BE FINALIZED ON THE PARISH CALENDAR.

____ 7.) **Ceremony:** You will have the opportunity to select the prayers, readings, and blessings to be used in the ceremony. It will be up to you to arrange and pay for any music to be played at the wedding. **Any music during the actual ceremony needs to be according to our hymnals, or instrumental.** The rehearsal is usually the night before. After the rehearsal, we encourage you and your wedding party to receive the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) before the wedding. **Please work with the Pastor directly on all these details.** It is standard to make a donation of \$100.00 to the priest or deacon who performs the ceremony.

____ 8.) **Marriage License:** Each couple will need to obtain a marriage license from the county courthouse, which needs to be at the wedding ceremony to be signed by the couple, their witnesses, and the priest or deacon. **This must be mailed back to the courthouse A.S.A.P. after the wedding.**

Please note: See CatholicMarriagePrep.com for courses in Natural Family Planning and Faith Finances. We highly recommend that you consider taking these additional courses to help enrich your marriage.

Thank you, and may God bless you always!

Groom

Bride

Pastor

Date of Signing