

Preparation for a Lifelong Marriage

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church * 6415 NE Antioch Rd * Gladstone, MO 64119
www.sataps.com * (816) 453-2089 ext. 5



Congratulations on your engagement!

Not only will St. Andrew's Parish prepare you for your wedding day, but we are also committed to preparing you for a lifetime of marriage in imitation of Christ's love for his Church.

1. Parish Registration

- First, the engaged couple needs to be active parishioners, who attend Mass regularly on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligation and sacrificially tithe to their parish, before they continue the marriage prep process. The reasoning is that the exchange of wedding vows in the Catholic Church is a sacred sacrament, and the Church has a serious moral & ministerial responsibility for all marriages it witnesses.
- Likewise, parish registration signifies your public commitment to both developing your relationship with God and to living out your faith in the community. For this reason, we require at least one member of the engaged couple to be a registered parishioner. If not already registered, please complete the online form at: <http://www.sataps.com/parish-registration>

2. Introductory Meeting with Priest

- Please make an initial appointment with our parish priest.

Fr. Rogers, Pastor	(816) 453-2089 ext. 3	vrogers@sataps.com
Fr. Rueb, Associate Pastor	(816) 453-2089 ext. 319	nrueb@sataps.com
Deacon Brian Buckner	(816) 453-2089 ext. 309	bbuckner@sataps.com

3. Marriage Registration and Questions meeting with Priest or Deacon

- a. Filling out the Diocesan Marriage Registration Form
- b. Collecting Documents Needed:
 - i. Baptism certificates must be dated 6 months prior to the wedding to show your updated sacramental record. To obtain a recent copy, please contact your church of baptism, and have them mail an official copy to St. Andrew the Apostle Parish to the Attn: of the presider preparing you for matrimony.
 - ii. If applicable, please bring a copy of your previous marriage license(s), divorce decree(s), annulment decree(s), and/or death certificate(s) of your prior marriage(s) with you.
- c. Covering an Overview of the Marriage Prep Process: NFP, FOCCUS, etc.
- d. Overview of Wedding Mass Prep: reading selections, Mass roles (musicians, servers, etc.)
- e. Outlining Parish Guidelines for Wedding Day: donations, decorations, photos, etc.

4. Three Follow-up Meetings with Priest:

- * The priest and engaged couple set a wedding date together based on their mutual schedules. The priest proposes setting the wedding date once he assesses the suitability and readiness of the couple to understand the significance of the sacrament and marriage vows:
 - a. Nature of Love, Indissolubility & Permanence of Marriage
 - b. Vows of Marriage: Free, Total, Faithful, Fruitful Love
 - c. Openness to Life & Mutual Self-Giving of Spouses

5. Natural Family Planning (NFP) Introductory Class

- **Description:** NFP is a reproductive health monitoring program, which teaches couples how to recognize their fertility cycles using natural means. The diocese recommends the Couple to Couple League organization to teach NFP, and they are locally represented by Michael & Christina Paoletti.
- **Registration:** Please contact the Paolettis at jchristinapaoletti@gmail.com or (816) 507-1591. Must pre-register at least 1 week or more prior to class to ensure availability of materials. We reserve the right to cancel the class if couples do not pre-register.
- **Duration:** 1 hour
- **Time:** 6pm
- **Location:** Fr. Pilecki Rm at St. Andrew's Church (basement of the rectory house)
- **Cost:** 50 % off = \$17.50/couple. The parish is offering to pay 50%. Therefore, please write a check to "St. Andrew's Church" for \$17.50 with the memo "NFP class".

6. FOCCUS: Pre-Marital Assessment Inventory

- **Description:** This program assists the engaged couple to understand and communicate openly about important topics including family dynamics, finances, life goals & expectations, etc. By each taking an inventory of their backgrounds and beliefs, the couple can compare their results, which will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship. This helps facilitate discussion in order to build a strong foundation for their marriage.
- **Registration:** Please register with your priest/deacon for the facilitators contact information.
- **Duration:** First meeting: introductions & completing assessment inventory (1 hour)
Second meeting: comparing and discussing inventory results (1.5 hours)
- **Location:** To be determined at the time of obtaining contact information.
- **Cost:** \$50/couple. Cash or checks can be paid at the first meeting. Checks can be made out to: "FOCCUS."

If you plan to use any decorations in church during the wedding Mass, please contact:

* Babette Hiles, Parish Volunteer (816) 716-6525