

We know that preparing for a wedding can be a stressful time! We appreciate the fact that you want to have the blessing of God upon your Marriage, with the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony, which help you in the many challenges married couples face these days. Here is a helpful “timeline,” with some suggestions/requests:

- Call the Rectory to speak with Monsignor about your wedding date. We are happy to discuss dates over the phone, as we realize you have to begin somewhere. *What we ask you to not do is set a date, engage a venue, and then call us to fit into your date, as it may not be possible.*
- Within a month or so after scheduling your date, call Monsignor to set an appointment for a fairly brief meeting, at which he will give you helpful information for your upcoming wedding.
- Please note that you will also find our Marriage Booklet on this website. We will give you a hard copy when we meet, but in this way, you will have it in front of you right away. We will also give you information concerning music for your wedding when we meet.
- *We have our own parish Pre Cana program, which is held on the second Sunday of March.* Monsignor will give you further information about that as well.
- Generally after Pre Cana, we will meet for a longer time (about an hour) to discuss the Wedding Liturgy, do the paperwork and schedule the Rehearsal. *Please do not schedule a Rehearsal or Rehearsal Dinner before checking on the availability of the Church. Rehearsals generally take place on Friday.*
- While we are always happy to help and answer questions, *parents should not call to make wedding arrangements for their adult children! We only mention this because it has become a problem and has caused communication difficulties. As many of our young priests say: “If they’re old enough to get married, they’re old enough to make the arrangements.”*
- Unfortunately, we live in an impersonal and, in many ways, inhuman world. We believe in the dignity of the human person. This is why we are called to treat everyone, regardless of state in life, with dignity. One of the ways we do this is by calling a person by name, or by title. In the last few years, it has become more and more common to call individuals *nothing!* Give everyone the dignity of their name or their title. Call your friends by their names. Call your loved ones by their relationship titles. In this spirit, just as you shouldn’t walk into your grandmother’s house and merely greet her with “Hi!,” or give the same greeting to your doctor, etc., so with the priest. We will greet you on the phone, at the door or in an email by using your name. We expect the same in return. It is improper to greet the priest at the door, or on the phone, or in an email with a mere “Hi!” Just as we will say: “Hello Mary, Hello, Joseph,” we expect the use of “Monsignor” or “Father” as the case may be, in return!