

*The Diocese of Alexandria  
Congratulates you on your  
upcoming nuptials, and  
welcomes you as you prepare  
for the Sacrament of Holy  
Matrimony.*



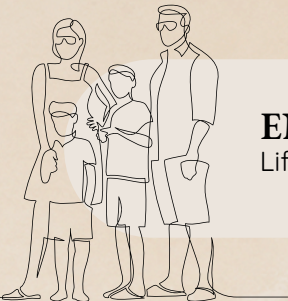
### **PLANNING**

Logistics and specifics.



### **READYING**

Hearts and minds.



### **ENRICHING**

Life and devotion.



**DIOCESE OF  
ALEXANDRIA**

**“On behalf of the Diocese of  
Alexandria, we offer our prayer  
for you on this most joyous  
occasion of your engagement to  
be married.”**

It is an honor for us to join you on  
your journey of faith as you begin the  
process of marriage preparation. May  
God bless you as you prepare to enter  
the Sacrament of Matrimony.

**- Office of Religious Education and  
Faith Formation**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)**

**Diocesan Guidelines  
FOR THE**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY**



**DIOCESE OF  
ALEXANDRIA**



# 8 STEPS TO PREPARE

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## 01 Meet with Parish Priest or Deacon

At a minimum of six (6) months to a year before your proposed wedding date, contact your parish priest or deacon. After your initial meeting, you can expect to meet with the priest/deacon several times during your preparation for marriage. This will enable you to:

- Establish a relationship with the minister performing the ceremony
- Complete all initial necessary documents.
- Receive an overview of the marriage preparation process.

## 02 Book the Church

Once it is established that there are no barriers to marriage, you are able to tentatively reserve the church for the day and time of your nuptial celebration.



## 03 Premarital Inventory

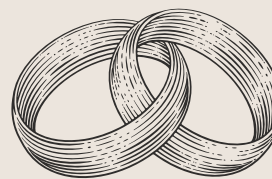
The priest/deacon will guide you through a premarital survey. This inventory will highlight both areas of strength in your relationship, as well as areas that may need greater focus. This is an important tool that is used to help you develop a successful and lasting marriage.

## 04 Premarital Preparation Class

Register online for the diocesan Marriage Preparation Class that is offered by the Chancery office. This workshop addresses a variety of topics that are vital in preparing for a lifetime of marriage. This will include an introduction to Natural Family Planning. We recommend attending the earliest class possible prior to your wedding date. More information, can be found on the Diocese website.

## 05 Planning the Wedding Liturgy

As the Wedding date draws closer you will meet with the priest/deacon to plan the liturgy for your wedding. In this planning meeting you will be able to choose the scripture readings and music, as well as go over the movements of the ceremony with the priest/deacon.



## 06 Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important step in the premarital process, and facilitates the spiritual preparation of the Sacrament of Matrimony. This Sacrament fosters an ongoing conversion and prepares you for that selfless giving, which is a fundamental requirement in every Sacramental Marriage.

## 07 Acquiring a Marriage License

Regarding the Civil aspect, a couple must obtain a Louisiana State Marriage License from the Clerk of Courts office from a Louisiana Civil Parish. This must be obtained between 30 days and 24 hours prior to the planned marriage ceremony.

## 08 Ongoing Marriage Enrichment

The Church encourages you to continue in the enrichment of your marriage by praying together, attending Mass together, getting involved by sharing your gifts in your church community, and taking advantage of all the church has to offer in programs and retreats.

