

*Note: A few components of our preparation process have been affected by the pandemic. Please contact the parish for further information.

Below is an overview of marriage preparation and/or wedding information at STM, which mimic the marriage preparation you'll receive at any parish in the diocese:

- * The Marriage Assessment (not a test!) that you would do with one of our clergy. It identifies strengths and areas of growth in your relationship, and we explore those areas where there is a divergence of feelings, opinions, etc.
- * A Theology of the Body session which addresses how God's love for us is actually manifested in your physical relationship as husband and wife. Visit <https://kcsjfamily.org/Godsplan>
- * A Natural Family Planning Session which addresses how a couple can delay or begin their families using morally acceptable practices. Visit <https://kcsjfamily.org/NFP>
- * An Engaged Encounter Weekend which allows a couple to gather with other couples preparing for marriage in the church, and to reflect on your relationship beyond the wedding date. (Visit <https://kcsjfamily.org/engaged/marriage-preparation-7-steps/catholic-engaged-encounterlead-couple-sessions>)

Note: The last three offerings (everything except the Marriage Assessment) can also be done through a single portal called *Thrive! Online*.* (Visit <https://kcsjfamily.org/thrive>). Many of our couples - including Catholic/non-Catholic couples - have enjoyed the Thrive experience because it deals with things like brain-science and how it affects how a husband and wife relate. For those interested in participating in *Thrive! Online*, we encourage couples to register soon, as there is limited space for every offering. ****In-Person Hybrid Weekends will be offered as an option in 2022.***

Couples having their weddings at STM would need to agree to the policies in place that guide music, art and environment, wedding coordinators, etc. Our staff has the final say on decisions. In addition, non-parishioners would need to have permission from your particular pastor/parishes if you wish to be married here. Without their permission, no wedding could occur here. There is a \$600 fee for non-parishioners. This fee is applicable unless at least one of the bride and groom are registered and actively tithing to STM.

Lastly, while we can tentatively hold a time/date on the calendar, it is only confirmed once a couple has begun the marriage preparation process. Because of our Mass schedule, the latest an afternoon wedding Mass could start on Saturday would be 1:30PM (or 2PM for a wedding service [no Mass] with a non-Catholic). We do permit evening weddings, but nothing earlier than 6PM. Wedding rehearsals are typically the afternoon/evening before, at a mutually agreed upon time.

Congratulations on your engagement! Know our parish looks forward to accompanying you in preparation for marriage!