

Marriage Preparation at St. Thomas More*

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 complete with one of our clergy. It identifies strengths and areas of growth in your relationship, and we specifically 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://kcsifamily.org/Godsplan>
- * A **Natural Family Planning Introduction** which addresses how a couple can delay or begin their families using morally acceptable practices. Visit <https://kcsifamily.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://engagedencounter.com>

Note: The last three offerings (excluding the Marriage Assessment) can also occur through a single experience called **Thrive!** Most of our couples - including Catholic/non-Catholic couples – use the Thrive experience. We encourage couples to register soon for Thrive! Online, as there is limited space for every offering. Visit <https://kcsjfamily.org/thrive>

Couples having their weddings at STM would need to agree to the policies in place that guide music, art and environment, wedding coordinators, etc. The STM wedding coordinator and liturgist will be present at both the rehearsal and the wedding. Our staff will facilitate both the rehearsal, the musicians, and the day of the wedding. An outside coordinator may be present at both the rehearsal and the liturgy; however, our staff will be in charge and have 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.

While we can tentatively hold a time/date on the calendar, it is only confirmed once a couple has begun the preparation process. Due to 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). Evening weddings are permitted, but no celebration 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!

***Updated January 15, 2024**