



BASILICA OF STS. PETER AND PAUL

STEPS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

(REVISED 4/30/22)

The Basilica's marriage preparation program conforms to the [Diocese of Knoxville marriage preparation guidelines](#). Except the items listed as requiring a meeting, you are encouraged to pursue the steps on your own prior to the required meetings with the marriage preparation staff.

DOCUMENTATION

- **Read the Basilica Wedding Policy and Procedures.** [Download here.](#)
- **Submit a [Wedding/Marriage Prep Request Form](#)** to the Basilica parish office.
- **Submit the Required Fees** to the Basilica (cash, check, or online through the Basilica's [Online Giving](#), under Wedding Fees). These fees are listed in the [Basilica Wedding Policy](#).
- **Submit Baptismal Certificates** – Obtain recently issued certificates (i.e, within 6 months) from your parish of Baptism. If you are unable to obtain a certificate, the testimony to the fact of Baptism can be filled out by the party themselves if they remember their own baptism, or by a knowledgeable witness of the baptism. ([Download Affidavit of Baptism for Person to be Married here.](#)) If one of you is not Catholic or is not baptized, a special dispensation from the Bishop will be required for you to marry. This may be requested after your pre-nuptial investigation.
- **Submit Freedom to Marry Affidavits** – Each party needs a simple declaration that you have never been married before. It can be filled out by any knowledgeable witness who has known the person at least all their adult life. [Download Affidavit Concerning Freedom to Marry.](#)
- **Submit Declaration of Nullity** - If either party has been married previously, you must submit a declaration of nullity from the Tribunal prior to any Basilica marriage preparation. [Visit the Tribunal of Knoxville website.](#)
- **Pre-Nuptial Investigation** (1 meeting) – Interview conducted by the marriage preparation team to declare you free to marry. This requires that you have presented the necessary paperwork listed above. It is important to gather this paperwork prior to your initial marriage preparation meeting.

CATECHESIS

- **Beloved Series** – [Watch the Beloved video series](#) on our parish [FORMED](#) subscription before you meet
- **Read the Catechism** (1-2 meetings) – Read the doctrine on The Sacrament of Matrimony in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Part 2, Sec. 2, Ch. 3, Art. 7, Par. 1601-1666 [English Spanish Read on vatican.va](#)) before you meet
- **[Introduction to Morality and Natural Family Planning \(vitaefertility.com\)](#)** (1 Zoom meeting) – 3rd Tues. of the month 8:30pm. Contact Amanda Smith amanda@vitaefertility.com. Further training available and encouraged.
- **FOCUS Inventory** (1-2 meetings) – this needs to be coordinated with the marriage preparation team at the Basilica, for the taking of it and for the meetings afterwards.
- **Day or Weekend Retreat** – Choose from [retreats offered by our diocese](#) or another Catholic pre-marriage retreat.

LITURGICAL PREPARATION

- **Meet with the Music Director** (1 meeting) – Read the [Basilica Wedding Music & Scriptures Selection Form](#) and [choose your readings](#) prior to meeting. It is not necessary to choose your music prior to meeting.
- **Meet with the Wedding Liaison** (1 meeting) – This will be a short meeting with Loraine Torrence to talk about the choreography of your wedding day at the Basilica (how everyone will line up, flowers, etc.)
- **Meet with the Wedding Celebrant** (1 meeting) – Discuss the liturgical aspects of the rite of marriage, including why you chose the readings you chose.