



Sts. Joachim and Ann, Icon handwritten by the iconographer, Nancy Lee Smith, IHM
(Copyright, Saint Ann Catholic Church and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)

For Christians, marriage is celebrated not only as a human institution, but as a Sacrament intended by Christ to reflect his love for the Church.

This love of Christ, which should characterize Christian marriage, is faithful, fruitful and life-long. Persons who wish to enter into this Sacramental union need to be prepared before they can make a lifelong commitment.

The wedding day is not the culmination of the preparation, it is only the beginning!

A wedding lasts merely a day...

but Marriage is for a *Lifetime*

The St. John the Evangelist Marriage Preparation Program will provide you a firm foundation on which to build your marriage relationship.

Presentations include:

- ✠ **Communication from the Heart**
- ✠ **Blessings of the Marriage Covenant**
- ✠ **Unity, Morality & Forgiveness in Marriage**
- ✠ **God's Plan for Marriage & Family**
- ✠ **Faith-full Finances in Marriage**
- ✠ **Betrothal...Your True Promise**
- ✠ **and much more!**

Couples are expected to attend this weekend-based program on both Saturday and Sunday as well as Saturday evening Vigil Mass in order to fulfill the St. John the Evangelist marriage preparation requirement.

To register, please call Julie Zasada at 219-365-5678 x263. The cost for the seminar is \$200. Payment should be made in advance in the Parish Office.

PLEASE READ THE COMPLETE
MARRIAGE POLICY ONLINE AT
www.stjohnparish.org/marriage.php



Congratulations

on your decision to enter into

Christian Marriage

We are happy that St. John the Evangelist Catholic Community will play a part in this sacred and blessed event in your lives.

This brochure is meant to serve as a quick summary of the key steps in your Marriage Preparation process. For a full description of the SJE Marriage Policy and answers to common questions – including fees, please visit the Sacramental Preparation page of our website and download the full Marriage Policy document at:

www.stjohnparish.org/marriage.php



5 STEPS TO A REWARDING MARRIAGE PREPARATION EXPERIENCE ...

STEP 1

Meet with the Pastor.

WHEN?
BEFORE YOU SET
A WEDDING DATE

It's important that your Pastor has the opportunity to know those preparing for marriage, as well as for you to know him better. The first meeting is a very casual visit. If everything is in order, a date will be set and the Pastor will review the process with you. **Make sure this step is completed BEFORE contracting other services on a given date in the event that your first choice of a date is not available.**

STEP 2

Meet with the parish
Ministry Coordinator.

A rehearsal date/time will be scheduled and if necessary, you will file any dispensations and learn how to provide:

- ✠ **Baptismal and Confirmation certificates**
- ✠ **Decree of nullity (if applicable)**
- ✠ **Two affidavits from witnesses**
- ✠ **Current marriage license**
- ✠ **Other documents in unique situations**

Additionally, a parish Deacon will schedule a meeting to sign ecclesial forms after they have been completed.

STEP 3

Meet with the parish
Liturgist/Music Director.

The Church's guidelines for music and liturgy will be carefully explained and specific liturgical and musical options will be presented to you. Should you desire to have one, the parish Liturgist/Music Director can assist you with the preparation of the information for your printed program.

WHEN?
REGISTER
AFTER STEP 1

STEP 4

Attend the Marriage
Preparation Program.

The parish provides a 2-day program, twice a year. The program is held on Saturday and Sunday from approximately 8am to 4pm each day. Additionally, a blessing is given to attending couples at the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. Please clear your weekend schedule as there will be a brief homework assignment on Saturday evening to be completed as a couple.