

Dear Couple

Congratulations on your engagement! Your decision to unite in Holy Matrimony signifies profound love and faith. As you prepare for marriage at The Chapel of Incarnate Word, I wish to share the essential requirements of St. Peter Prince of the Apostle:

1. **Pre-Marriage Retreat or inventory** A certificate confirming completion of this marriage preparation is required.
Meeting with the Priest: A letter from the priest preparing you for marriage, confirming that all these requirements have been met, is appreciated.
2. **Affidavits of Free Status:** Letters or sworn affidavits from two people who have known you since at least age 16, attesting to your freedom to marry, are necessary.
3. **Baptismal Certificates:** Updated certificates issued within six months of your wedding are required.
4. **Permission or Dispensation:** If one of you isn't Catholic, your bishop or the bishop of the diocese where you're preparing must provide this.
5. **Civil Requirements:** Fulfillment of all civil requirements, typically including a marriage license, is required. You may bring this to the rehearsal, and it will be given to our parish to make records after the ceremony. It will then be mailed back to the county for you.
6. **Request for delegation.** If you are inviting a priest or deacon to receive your marriage vows, they must request delegation from our pastor in written form. This may be the priest who you are completing marriage preparation with, or another priest. Please refer to Form 5 from the Chapel in the delegation request.

Please note two crucial aspects if your preparation is outside the Archdiocese of San Antonio:

1. Please ensure all documents are sent to your diocese for our parish to receive at least two months before your wedding. Failing to do so may lead to difficulties in securing your desired wedding date.
2. If you are inviting a priest or deacon to witness your vows from another diocese, they must also request that their diocese send a letter of good standing within the same timeframe.

I encourage you both to stay in constant touch with your preparation priest and ensure all necessary documents and requirements are met in a timely manner.

In closing, I pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide you both as you prepare for this wonderful sacrament. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our parish office if you require any further assistance or guidance. We are here to support you in any way we can. Once again, congratulations on your engagement. I look forward to hearing about your progress and wish you both a lifetime filled with love, peace, and divine blessings.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Jorge Campos-Covarrubias
Pastor

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