

Steps & Timeline for Marriage Preparation

WHAT TO DO...	WHEN TO DO IT...	_____
1.) Reserve your wedding date with the church.....	A.S.A.P.	_____✓_____
2.) Attend the Marriage Info Meeting at St. Alphonsus.....	8-12 months before <i>(as soon as is reasonable)</i>	_____
3.) Register for the One In Christ marriage preparation program..... • visit www.OneInChristMarriage.com for info & registration.	5-9 months before <i>(but register early)</i>	_____
4.) Take the “Catholic Couple Check Up” pre-marital inventory..... • visit www.CatholicCoupleCheckUp.com for info & registration.	5-9 months before	_____
5.) Obtain fresh copies of your Sacramental Records • Contact the church(es) at which you were baptized and confirmed and request fresh copies of your Baptism and Confirmation Certificates be sent to St. Alphonsus Parish, attn: Wedding Ministry.	5-6 months before	_____
6.) Witnesses complete the Witness Affidavit forms..... • Two witnesses for bride, two for groom. These can be taken to any Catholic Church and must be filled out with a priest or deacon (and stamped by their Church) in order for it to be accepted.	4-5 months before	_____
7.) Meet with the Officiant for your wedding	3-4 months before	_____
8.) Plan the wedding..... • The St. Alphonsus wedding webpage provides the options for selecting readings and music for both a Wedding Ceremony or a Nuptial Mass.	2-3 months before	_____
9.) Balance of wedding offering to the church due	2 months before	_____
10.) Videographer & Photographer recording agreement due	2 months before • Online agreement is found at: stalchicago.org/wedding-directory/recording-weddings	_____
11.) Obtain county marriage license	1-2 months before	_____
12.) All paperwork completed..... Couples doing their marriage prep & paperwork at St. Alphonsus but getting married elsewhere must have their all their paperwork completed two months prior to their date.)	1-2 months before	_____
13.) Sacrament of Reconciliation (for Catholics)	during the month before Reconciliation cleanses your heart & soul, and spiritually prepares you to enter into the sacred covenant of Holy Matrimony. Saturdays from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m., or by appointment.	_____
14.) Wedding plans deadline date	8 days before Have all your reception details and logistical planning done by this date so that you have a whole week to relax and rest up for your big day.	_____
15.) Wedding Rehearsal	the evening before 1:30 weddings have their rehearsal at 5:30 pm; weddings at 3:30 have the rehearsal at 6:30.	_____
16.) Your Wedding Day!		_____