



# SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

## THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that marriage is a sacrament, a symbol of the love that Jesus Christ has for his people, the church. As a sacrament, marriage is also a covenant by which a man and woman establish a partnership of love for the whole of their lives. Marriage is ordered towards the good of the spouse and the procreation and education of children. It is meant to be a life-long commitment...“till death do you part.”

## WHO CAN MARRY AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH?

1. **Parishioners.** Registered active members of St. Joseph Church , who are free to marry in the Catholic Church, are welcome to celebrate their wedding at the Church. They must contact one of the parish priests at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding day.
2. **Non-parishioners.** Couples request to be married at St. Joseph Church for a variety of reason, such as family ties with the church, it's beauty, etc. Therefore we are pleased to allow such weddings to occur (in accordance with Archdiocesan policy). However, you must choose a priest or deacon from a church other than St. Joseph's to prepare you for the sacrament and officiate at the service. It is also required that at least on party be Catholic in order to marry in a Catholic church. It is important that you make the following arrangements:
  - ◆ A visit to the pastor of the bride (or the groom) must be made a minimum of six (6) months prior to the wedding date. In a mixed marriage, visit the pastor of the Catholic party. Ask for permission to marry outside your own parish.
  - ◆ Ask your pastor, assistant, deacon, or other priest to officiate at your wedding. The one who agrees to officiate at the ceremony will be responsible for taking you through the marriage preparation program and fulfilling all Archdiocesan regulations regarding publication of banns, obtaining dispensation for a mixed marriage, etc.

## DOCUMENTS YOU WILL NEED.

- ◆ Civil Requirements: (1) Birth Certificates, (2) Marriage License
- ◆ Church Requirements: (1) Copy of Baptismal Certificates dated within six months of the wedding date, (2) certificate of attendance at one of the marriage preparation programs offered in the Archdiocese.