

## Dear Engaged Couple,

First, let us say: congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to working with you during this important time of sacramental marriage formation. Below we have laid out what our program entails. Please feel free to contact us with any questions!

The Church asks every couple seeking to get married to have a minimum of six months of engagement before their wedding day. Our marriage preparation program (*Witness to Love*) is designed to be completed over this time period, so please know that we schedule wedding dates six months out (or longer) from when you begin your preparation, not six months from the date you first got engaged. Our goal in this is to ensure that the marriage preparation – one of the most vital aspects of preparing for the Sacrament – is taken seriously.

### First Step:

1. **Contact one of the priests or deacons of the parish to make an appointment to meet with him.**
2. Father or Deacon will send you a marriage preparation inventory to fill out. Please complete this prior to your meeting with Father. The inventory serves as a tool to highlight strengths in your relationship and areas for growth.

At this first meeting, you will get to know Father or Deacon and he will ask you a few questions, take down some initial information, and go over your inventory. At the end of the meeting he will provide you with contact information for our marriage preparation coordinator couple. This is a couple from the parish who will assist you along the way to complete our marriage preparation program.

### Second Step:

1. At this point, we also ask that you **choose a mentor couple**. The parish provides you with the coordinator couple who is trained to facilitate your working through *Witness to Love*, but we want you to choose a mentor couple who will accompany you during your engagement period. This couple should be someone you are both comfortable with and who will hold you accountable, inspire and challenge you. They will be expected to meet with you six times to go over the materials in the *Witness to Love* workbooks as well as be a support for you. The criteria we ask you to use when you pick a mentor couple are simple:
  - The couple must be married in the Catholic Church for at least five (5) years.
  - The couple must attend church regularly.
  - The couple must have a marriage you admire!

**Please note: It is only once you have chosen a mentor couple that the date for your wedding will be confirmed on the parish calendar; keep this in mind and don't delay!**

“... deeper parish connection and authentic accompaniment for engaged and newly married couples.”

– Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

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### Third Step:

1. **Meet with your marriage preparation coordinator couple.** Once you have completed step two, contact the coordinator couple to set up a time to meet. They will invite you and your mentor couple over to their house to review the *Witness to Love* program, explain the results of the questionnaire/inventory you filled out, and discuss other important details of the marriage preparation process.
2. The next day, **the coordinator couple will email you a “Scavenger Hunt”**; this is a check list of sorts which includes some fun activities for you to do with your mentor couple during the marriage preparation process (ex: go on a double date planned by the guys.)
3. **Plan the wedding ceremony with Father.** One month before your sacramental wedding day, sit down with Father to go over the readings you have chosen and any other pertinent details.

Most importantly, be assured of our prayers for you both during this exciting time of preparation for marriage! May God bless you along your journey to the altar.

In Christ,

Holy Angels Marriage Formation Team