



BASILICA OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Post Office Box 12423
Pensacola, FL 32591-2423



Marriage Preparation Requirements

Engaged Couples living Outside the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

All Engaged Couples who live outside of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee are to follow these requirements regarding preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage in the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, Pensacola, Florida. There will be no exceptions granted to these requirements.

1. The couple is to make contact with their local parish priest to arrange for pre-marriage preparation according to the guidelines of the (Arch) Diocese in which they have a domicile. Pre-marriage preparation will not be done at the Basilica for couples who reside outside of Escambia or Santa Rosa Counties.
2. Once contact has been made the couple is to contact the Marriage Coordinator at the Basilica and present the name of the priest/deacon who will conduct the pre-marriage preparation along with his parish name, plus telephone and email contact information.
3. It is recommended that pre-marriage preparation formally begin approximately eight (8) months prior to the marriage.
4. All the necessary documents required by the Catholic Church for a sacramental marriage are to be collected by the priest/deacon conducting the marriage preparation. (cf page 2)
5. Once the preparation is completed, the priest/deacon conducting the preparation is to send all documentation to the Chancellor of his (Arch) Diocese for the Nihil Obstat stamp. The Chancellor's office is to send the packet of documentation to the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, 11 North B Street, Pensacola, Florida 32502. This packet is to be received at the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee one month prior to the date of marriage.
6. In addition to the regular Church marriage documents, the packet is to include a letter from the pastor of the parish granting permission for the couple to be married outside of their parish. A marriage will not be celebrated in the Basilica of St. Michael without this letter.
7. Any priest or deacon who has been invited to celebrate the Marriage Liturgy, i.e. the one who will receive the vows, witness the exchange of rings and impart the Nuptial Blessing, must write the Rector of the Basilica no later than sixty (60) days prior to the marriage date requesting delegation to assist at this wedding. A priest or deacon who is outside of the Basilica parish without this request for delegation will not celebrate the marriage. Further, the said priest or deacon must provide from his (Arch) Diocese a letter of suitability for ministry from his Ordinary to be sent to the Chancellor of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee at the same address as the Matrimonial Tribunal above.