



## **Matrimony**

All couples contemplating marriage at Holy Cross should call the parish office well in advance (6-9 months), in order to make arrangements with a priest. Attendance at a Marriage Preparation Course (Pre Cana) or an Engaged Encounter is a diocesan requirement for all couples planning to be married.

Holy Cross offers Marriage Preparation twice a year, usually a Saturday in June and November. It is a day-long session held in the Parish Center. Approximately four to six married couples share their experiences, and discussion of important issues between the engaged couple is encouraged.

Call the parish office for information regarding dates, times and places where Marriage Preparation is offered. Then complete and return the registration form.

Topics include: the Sacramentality of Marriage, Communication, Intimacy, Finances, Spirituality, and "Nitty Gritty" which covers substance abuse, in-laws, daily living, careers, etc.

***Matrimony, or Marriage, like Holy Orders, is a sacrament that consecrates for a particular mission in building up the Church, and that provides grace for accomplishing that mission. This sacrament, seen as a sign of the love uniting Christ and the Church, establishes between the spouses a permanent and exclusive bond, sealed by God. Accordingly, a marriage between baptized persons, validly entered into and consummated, cannot be dissolved. The sacrament confers on them the grace they need for attaining holiness in their married life and for responsible acceptance and upbringing of their children. For a valid marriage, a man and a woman must express their conscious and free consent to a definitive self-giving to the other, excluding none of the essential properties and aims of marriage.***

*\*\*\*Roman Catholic Church.\*\*\* [Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matrimony)*