

## General Expectations of the Marriage Preparation Process

- ✝ Couple will meet (with priest, deacon, liturgy coordinator) for 4-5 occasions throughout the engagement period. The final meeting is normally a month prior to the wedding and will be a planning session for the wedding Mass/Ceremony.
  - ✝ The couple will make an “Pre-Cana Experienced/Engaged Couple Retreat” (see [www.toledodiocese.org](http://www.toledodiocese.org)) prior to the wedding and submit the certificate of completion to the priest or deacon for the marriage file.
  - ✝ In addition, the couple will complete the FOCCUS Pre-marriage inventory; an online survey tool that will identify potential strengths and challenges in their relationship together. After taking the FOCCUS tool, a facilitated discussion will take place with the priest or deacon preparing the couple.
  - ✝ The couple will be open and honest about all aspects of preparation.
  - ✝ The couple will be open and honest about any sort of possible physical or verbal abuse, and/or alcohol or drug usage.
  - ✝ Couple will strive to be chaste in their relationship during the engagement period.
  - ✝ Couple will be on time for appointments, especially for the wedding rehearsal, and agree to all policies indicated in the church where their wedding rite/Mass will take place.
  - ✝ The couple will request a copy of their baptismal certificate from their church/parish of baptism with notations, and submit this copy to the priest/deacon for the marriage file.
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- ✓ Priest or deacon will be honest, forthright, and confidential with substantial information. Priest and deacon will not be permitted to work through third parties such as wedding planners and/or mothers, mothers-in-laws, grandmothers, etc.
  - ✓ Priest will pray for the couple earnestly throughout the marriage preparation process.

