

Before We Can Set a Date for Your Wedding

Before we can set a date for your wedding, we must be sure that there are no obstacles in the way of you and your intended being married in the Catholic Church. Some of these obstacles can be handled fairly simply but others, such as a prior (even civil) marriage by one of the parties, may take many months to resolve. **Therefore, we have to address these situations before we can set the date.**

So, if your fiancé or fiancée has not been baptized, we need to obtain permission from the Tribunal at the Diocese. The same is true if that person has been baptized in another Christian denomination. If neither of you are members of this parish, we'll need to get permission from one of your pastors. If the priest or deacon celebrating your marriage rite is not assigned to this parish, we will need to get permission (called delegation) from our pastor.

There may occasionally be other issues, but please understand that a wedding is a celebration of a Sacrament, and we must be sure there are no barriers to the two of you receiving that Sacrament.

Of course, you also need to be properly prepared to receive the sacrament and that is why, once the date has been set, we have marriage preparation requirements for which you will meet with Deacon Tim Maragos, if one of the priests at Fatima will be marrying you.

Please note, though, that if you are parishioners of another parish who have received permission to marry at Fatima, **you will have to meet the marriage preparation requirements of *your* parish and it would be the case your marriage preparation will be done there or by the priest or deacon who is coming to Fatima to celebrate your Sacrament of Marriage.**