

What To Expect From the Witness to Love Program

Welcome to marriage preparation at St. James the Apostle! We are so excited to walk with you as you prepare for your lifelong commitment to your beloved. We are also delighted to be able to offer you one of the best marriage preparation programs out there: Witness to Love. Here is what the Witness to Love marriage preparation process will look like:

1. You will meet with Deacon Steve DeSitter for an initial meeting. At this meeting, you will complete your Pre-Nuptial inventory, and receive an overview of what to expect from this marriage preparation process.
 2. You will *tentatively* schedule your wedding date with the help of the Sacramental Coordinator.
 3. You will choose a *mentor couple*. This mentor couple will help guide you through the entire marriage preparation process. More details on the *requirements* for a mentor couple and how to choose a mentor couple may be found on the back of this sheet. Once you have chosen a mentor couple, we will mail you your Witness to Love materials.
 4. You will complete the FOCCUS inventory. We will send you more details via email on how. You will review the results of the FOCCUS inventory with one of our coach couples in one or two meetings.
 5. Your wedding date will be confirmed after you select a mentor couple and complete the FOCCUS.
 6. After the FOCCUS inventory, you and your mentor couple will meet with our Marriage Prep Coordinator for a kickoff meeting. This will be a discussion of what to expect from the program, and how your mentor couple can best support you.
 7. You will have a double date with your mentor couple, and then meet six times to go over WTL program materials.
 8. You and your mentor couple will attend our parish's Theology of Marriage Retreat. After the Theology of Marriage retreat, one of your meetings with your mentor couple (see point 7) will include either Fr. Keith or Deacon Steve, to discuss any questions you may have about the Theology of Marriage Retreat.
 9. You will complete what is known as the "Scavenger Hunt"—a sheet that includes check-offs for the requirements above, as well as a few others that you will need to complete, such as an NFP class, and attending Mass monthly with your mentor couple. You will turn this completed Scavenger Hunt in to the parish office, at which point your file will be complete.
 10. You will meet with our Marriage Prep Coordinator & Sacramental Coordinator to have a wrap-up meeting and plan your wedding liturgy.
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How to Choose a Mentor Couple

Mentor Couple Requirements:

1. Married 5 years or more in the Catholic Church
2. Active in the Church
3. Have a marriage and family you both admire
4. Go to the same church as you do now OR attend the parish you will be attending after the wedding
5. Are NOT immediate family members

Steps to Discerning a Mentor Couple

Make sure to pray about your choice. Here are some questions to consider & pray about:

1. Who can challenge you to have a better marriage?
2. Do they have a strong relationship with Christ?
3. Are they a couple you would go to naturally if you needed relationship help in the future?
4. Do you like the way their kids turned out?
5. Would you be happy if you had a marriage relationship like theirs?

Discuss what it is specifically that you admire about their marriage. It doesn't matter if you don't know them really well, but it does matter that you trust and admire them.

You should both be on the same page about your mentor couple choice *before* you ask them to be your mentors! If one of you knows them and the other does not know them as well, that's fine, but you should both agree that they are a couple you admire.

Once you have discerned a mentor couple, you must personally ask them if they would be willing to be your mentors. **Once you have asked them and they have said yes, please contact the Sacramental Coordinator again, so she can send you your program materials and connect you with a coach couple.**

If you get stuck in the process of choosing a mentor, please contact the Sacramental Coordinator, who may have suggestions of potential mentor couples to ask.
