

**SAINT THOMAS APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**2665 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC 20008**  
**202.234.1488**

**PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE AT ANOTHER CHURCH**

We are happy to assist our parishioners as they prepare to be married at a church other than Saint Thomas Apostle. We will help you complete all of the necessary paperwork to ensure that your marriage is valid in the Catholic Church.

**OFFERING**

Because of the time and expense involved in assisting you to prepare for marriage, you are requested to make a donation of \$100 to Saint Thomas Apostle Church.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION (PRE-CANA)**

You must enroll in a Catholic marriage preparation program to prepare for your wedding. Some of the ones available in the Archdiocese of Washington include:

**Archdiocese of Washington.** Two consecutive Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782. For info visit: [www.adw.org](http://www.adw.org) or send an email to: [flm@adw.org](mailto:flm@adw.org) or call Course Office at 301.853.5334.

**Saint Peter Parish on Capitol Hill.** Four consecutive Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Saint Peter Church, 313 Second Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. For info visit: [www.saintpetersdc.org](http://www.saintpetersdc.org) or send an email to [dre@saintpetersdc.org](mailto:dre@saintpetersdc.org) or call 202.547.1430 x105.

**Catholic Engaged Encounter.** One weekend (Friday to Sunday) at hotels in the DC area. For info visit: [www.dcengagedencounter.org](http://www.dcengagedencounter.org).

**“Three to Get Married”**. Thursday and Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817. For info visit: [www.bethesdacfd.org](http://www.bethesdacfd.org).

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The officiating priest or deacon is responsible for all the necessary paperwork for a couple’s wedding. Among the required documentation are the following:

- **Baptismal Certificates** (one current copy for baptized persons, obtained by each party through the place of one’s baptism)
- **Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire** (administered to each separately)
- **Permission for Mixed Religion** (for a Catholic to marry a baptized non-Catholic)
- **Dispensation from Disparity of Cult** (For a Catholic to marry an unbaptized person)
- **Letter of Freedom** from one’s pastor (if applicable)
- **Pre-nuptial Witness Affidavits** (from parents)
- **Certification** of participation in an approved Catholic marriage preparation program.
- **Civil License** obtained by the couple from the D.C. Government or the place where the wedding will be celebrated.

If either party has been married before, one of the following:

- **Declaration of Nullity of Bond** due to lack of canonical form.
- **Declaration of Annulment** for formerly attempted marriages.
- **Declaration of Death** of previous spouse