

## Matrimony

The **Sacrament of Matrimony** (or Christian Marriage) like all of the sacraments, is a visible expression of God's ongoing presence in the world and an example of the kind of love God has for each of us. In Christian Marriage, a husband and wife form a covenant of committed, unconditional and caring love and they invite Christ to be a partner with them in that covenant.

The unconditional nature of a *covenant* is different from that of a *contract* which requires that certain conditions be met by each partner in order for the contract to be valid. The Church teaches that the Sacrament of Matrimony mirrors God's covenant of love with his people. "God's love for us is unconditional, eternal, exclusive, and faithful, in good times and bad, in sickness and health."

Christian Marriage is considered uniquely life giving. A husband and wife share the privilege of procreating new life. And the surprises and trials of marriage provide countless opportunities to grow in holiness.

## Steps for Marriage Preparation

If you are interested in getting married please call the office so you can set up an appointment to meet with the priest/deacon to introduce yourself, start the paperwork, set the date, sign-up for Pre-Cana or Fully Engaged and obtain materials for planning the actual wedding ceremony.

### Pre-Cana

Pre-Cana is a one day session presented during the year at the Faith Formation Building. Topics covered: theology of marriage, spirituality, communication, marriage and family, sacramentality, intimacy and the Marriage Rite. Guest couples give presentations followed by time for small group discussions.

