

## 5 Steps for marriage prep!

- Couples should contact their local parish and make an appointment to speak with a priest or deacon about the upcoming wedding. The priest or deacon and/or parish staff will provide assistance in completing necessary paperwork and scheduling the church.
- At least 6 months prior to the wedding date, couples should take a premarital inventory, such as the FOCCUS or PREPARE. These are most often offered at the parish, but if the parish does not yet have a trained facilitator, couples may call the Family Counseling/Family Life Office at 512-949-2495.
- Take a formal marriage preparation course, such as "Together in God's Image" or another course approved by the diocese. These are most often offered in the parish or deanery. A few "Together in God's Image" retreats and class sessions are still offered by the diocesan office each year to assist parishes and deaneries that do not yet have trained marriage prep teams.
- Couples must take at least a one-hour introduction to Natural Family Planning (full course preferred) from one of the three providers approved by the diocese:

Billings Ovulation Method – Amanda and Ryan Ransom (512) 415-0808  
ransomsnfp@gmail.com

Couple to Couple League (Sympto-Thermal Method) – Robert and Kelly Tavarez (512) 258-9304

Creighton Model Ovulation Method – Diana Arteaga: austinfcc@gmail.com

- Remain in prayer together as you approach the day you will take your vows. Remember that, despite all of the **practical** preparations for the **wedding**, the **spiritual** preparations for the **marriage** are most important.

# Steps for Marriage Preparation in the Diocese of Austin

Marriage is more than a wedding day – it is a life-long vocation that requires careful discernment and preparation. The Diocese of Austin has particular guidelines for couples preparing for marriage to assist couples in building happy, life-long relationships.

