

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

Guidelines for cohabitating couples wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage at Prince of Peace Catholic Church.

We are so happy that you wish to get married in the Church. Your decision and desire demonstrates an understanding to have a marriage that is a Sacrament pleasing to God, and blessed by Him. St. Paul tells us that cohabitation and pre-marital sex is a grave sin (1Corinthians 6:9). God knows how hard it can be to keep sexual purity. People in love can struggle with this and then will reconcile with God through confession and continue to do their best to keep sexual purity in the future. A couple who lives together prior to marriage, finds it extremely difficult to avoid this sin. That is why it is not simply “committing sin” but rather “living is sin”.

Getting married in the Church is very holy and God is always present to give us spiritual help along the way if we are ready and open to it. It’s not about just “going through a ceremony”. It’s about “receiving the Sacrament” and all the graces and blessings that come with it. To receive this sacrament and blessing, spend this time of marriage preparation asking God to bless your marriage and help you to build a strong marriage.

It is wonderful that you want to get married in the Church. By doing this you are saying to the world that you are members of the Catholic Church. By not cohabitating, people will see that you are living in a way that is as Jesus Christ has commanded. You set an example for others. It will give a good example for those who are not Catholic.

As Catholics we don’t follow the world’s example, nor do we follow the example of others, we follow Jesus Christ. If you are cohabitating ask God for the courage and strength to stop. Go to Confession, return to Mass and Holy Communion, as we prepare for your Sacramental Marriage.

If you are willing before God to promise that from this moment you will do your best to live as “brother and sister” (and part of that means having separate bedrooms) and that you will go to Confession and attend Sunday Mass receiving Holy Communion, then we look forward to celebrating your marriage. Truly, this is what God wants for you.

However, if you choose to continue to cohabitate, we are still willing to marry you, but it must be a very simple and quiet “Chapel” wedding. If you have questions or wish to talk, please contact Deacon Steve Fraker at stevefraker@yahoo.com.