

## **Marriage Preparation**

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish  
339 N. Maple Avenue  
Kingston, PA 18704  
(570) 288-6446

1. Congratulations on your engagement! This form lays out the steps that you should follow in order to be married at St. Ignatius, the Catholic Church, and the State of Pennsylvania.
2. According to Canon Law, **the couple must be interviewed by a priest prior to any commitment regarding the church.** The priest has the responsibility to make sure the individuals are free to marry; therefore, **a date may not be set over the telephone.**”
3. Once an interview has taken place between a priest and the couple, a date may be set; and it is the responsibility of the couple to set up **future appointments** by calling one of our priests at (570) 288-6446.
4. Please acquire a **Baptismal** certificate indicating that you have received the three sacraments of initiation. These certificates must be dated within six months of the wedding or they are invalid. **Original certificates are not permissible.** Obtaining a Baptismal certificate is very routine, and most Christian churches will know what you are talking about. Please return your certificates to St. Ignatius Rectory. If you were baptized at **St. Ignatius Loyola Church, St. Hedwig Church, or St. Mary of the Annunciation** in Kingston, then we have your Baptismal certificate on file already—just let us know.
5. Please have two adults who have known you for five years or more complete the **“Free State”** forms. A total of **four forms** must be completed, two for each individual. Moreover, the forms need to be signed in the presence of a priest or deacon to be valid. The forms can be obtained by a Catholic priest and returned to the St. Ignatius Rectory.
6. Please attend a **“Pre-Cana Conference.”** The diocesan website provides dates and times. To find it, go to [www.dioceseofScranton.org](http://www.dioceseofScranton.org), click on “How do I?” at the top menu, and click on “Register for Pre-Cana” in the dropdown menu; you can then register for a date. If it is easier, you may call the Office for Family Life at (570) 207-2213. We suggest that you register ASAP as conferences tend to fill up quickly. A certificate of completion will be given to you, which should then be sent to St. Ignatius. If you have trouble finding a date that works, or you live in another diocese, please contact one of our priests to make other arrangements.
7. Please complete the **“Together for Life”** booklet and mail the last sheet one month prior to the wedding to St. Ignatius Rectory. This allows the celebrant to prepare the prayers and readings for your celebration.

8. Please mail or drop off your **marriage license** and **church offering** (\$300) one month prior to your wedding. If you are having financial problems, please discuss this with the pastor. Marriage licenses can be obtained at any county courthouse in the state between 60 and 3 days before the wedding according to PA state law.
9. Please consult our **musicians** in order to make arrangements for your wedding music. Available wedding musicians in the parish are Carmella Faust (570) 288-8814 and Pat Fennell (570) 288-3229. If you would like to utilize another musician who is experienced with Catholic weddings, please consult with one of our priests. Please note that the **musician(s)' offering is to be given to them directly**. Consult with the musicians directly to inquire about their fee.
10. According to Canon Law, if the bride or groom is not an active member (does not attend Mass regularly at St. Ignatius), then she or he needs to have a **letter from the proper pastor for permission to marry outside of her/his parish**. If a letter is not provided, we are unable to celebrate a marriage.
11. We hope this helps make your marriage preparations as smooth as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. God bless you as you embark on this new stage in your life!