



National Marriage Week

Every Feb 7-14

The Archdiocese of San Antonio promotes *National Marriage Week*. Thank you, Pastors, for recognizing and celebrating marriage at your parish.

The observances of *National Marriage Week* (Feb. 7-14) and *World Marriage Day* (Sunday, Feb. 12) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme, "**Marriage...one flesh, given and received**" highlights the one-flesh union of husband and wife that is willed by God. It also indicates the personal self-gift of each spouse, one to the other. These concepts point to Christ who gives Himself under the appearance of bread and wine—as real flesh and blood.

Celebrate Married Couples

Pastors are encouraged to celebrate an Anniversary Mass for married couples on *World Marriage Day, Sunday, February 12, 2023*. The purpose of this Mass is to advocate and promote the sacrament of Marriage by recognizing and celebrating married couples in the parish. Pastors may choose to host this special Mass in one of three ways:

1. Designate one of the weekend Masses as the Anniversary Mass
2. Designate all the weekend Masses as Anniversary Masses for an Anniversary Mass weekend
3. Schedule a special Mass outside of regular weekend Mass times

Blessing of the Couples

Pastors or deacons can bless the married couples during the Sunday liturgy of *World Marriage Sunday* on February 12, 2023. The priest can use the blessing from the *Book of Blessings* (Chapter 1, part III B: paragraph nos. 107-114), *Order for the Blessing of a Married Couple* (*Order of the Blessing within Mass on Other Occasions*).

Pastors or deacons can also bless the married couples using a prayer for married couples from the USCCB. Download the prayer for Married Couples here:

- [Prayer for Married Couples \(Link\)](#)
- [Prayer for Married Couples \(PDF\)](#)

Prayer of the Faithful

Incorporate one of the following petitions in your Prayer of the Faithful in weekend Masses:

- [Prayer of the Faithful \(English\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Oración de los Fieles \(Español\) \(PDF\)](#)

Anniversary Certificate Template

Pastors can complete, sign, and distribute certificates of recognition for each married couple celebrating an anniversary. We recommend using an online registration form to take the names and years of marriage from each couple. Then, add the information to the provided certificate template and print to distribute at the Anniversary Mass:

- [Certificate Template \(English\) \(Word\)](#)
- [Plantilla de certificado \(Español\) \(Word\)](#)

Bulletin Announcement

Parishes may promote the Anniversary Mass by publishing the following announcement in the bulletin in the weeks leading up to Sunday, February 12:

- [Bulletin Announcement Template \(Word\)](#)

MARRIAGE

one flesh, given and received

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Preaching Resources

- [Preaching Resources \(PDF\)](#)

Posters

- [Print \(English\)](#) | [Digital \(English\)](#)
- [Imprimir \(Español\)](#) | [Digital \(Español\)](#)

Web Banners

- [Print](#) | [No Logo](#)

At-Home Marriage Retreat for Couples

- [USCCB \(English\)](#)
- [Archdiocese of San Antonio\(English\)](#)
- [Arquidiócesis de San Antonio \(Español\)](#)
- [Instructions for Printing Archdiocese Booklets](#)

Holy Hour

Host a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration for engaged and married couples (in-person and/or online) utilizing the topic of marriage. This can be also done for youth and young adult groups on the vocation to married life.

- [Prayers for a Holy Hour](#)

Additional Resources

Marriage Ministry Resources

Visit the Archdiocesan marriage resource page to find resources on marriage ministries, human sexuality, counseling, spiritual direction, parenting, and family life:

- [Archdiocesan marriage resource webpage](#)

For Your Marriage Resources

For Your Marriage helps couples at all stages of life to understand and live God's plan for happy, holy marriages by providing educational and spiritual resources. The website was launched in 2007 as part of the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to communicate the meaning and value of married life for the Church and for society.

- [For Your Marriage resources website](#)

Online Marriage Encounter Retreats

Visit *Worldwide Marriage Encounter* to see upcoming weekend retreats for married couples:

- [Worldwide Marriage Encounter website](#)

Marriage Preparation Retreats

Assist engaged couples on their journey to marriage by taking advantage of many opportunities for marriage preparation retreats:

- [Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation retreats](#)

Natural Family Planning

Offer married couples free resources on Natural Family Planning. USCCB approved and Theology of the Body integrated. Sessions, coaches and resources available in English and Spanish:

- [MyParishNFP website](#)