

MARRIAGE VALIDATION CHECKLIST - PAPERWORK NEEDED

St. Mary Catholic Church – Huntley, IL
Rev. Christopher P. DiTomo, Pastor

[] Copy of **civil marriage certificate** from the county where the marriage took place. If you do not have a copy already then you will need to call the County Clerk office for the county where the marriage took place. This is proof that you were married civilly.

[] Newly issued **baptismal certificate** for both Catholic parties (groom and bride) (call the parish where you were baptized at and ask them to send to either you or to St. Mary a baptismal certificate including the notations for all other sacraments received (First Communion, Confirmation, etc.))

[] If either the groom or bride is not a Catholic: **proof of baptism for a Non-Catholic party** (this can be the certificate that was given on the day of the baptism, or you could call the church and ask them to check their baptism register and send something on letterhead stating that the person was baptized on a given date in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

[] **2 witness affidavits for groom** (for explanation, see below)

[] **2 witness affidavits for bride**

***Explanation of the witness affidavits:** Ask two individuals who have known you from at least the time that you were old enough to marry to complete the witness affidavit forms. Usually parents, grandparents, aunt/uncles, or siblings are preferred. If none of these are available, then you can ask close personal friends. The witnesses do not have to be Catholic. They do need to complete the affidavit form in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon. They can either make an appointment with a priest at St. Mary or at a Catholic church that is local to them. The signing of the affidavit should only take about 5 minutes per witness.*

In the witness affidavit, individuals testify that you are free to enter into a Church marriage. They will testify to the fact that you were baptized, and your marital history (in this case, that you were married only once before—civilly; or that you were married before but that that union had ended through the death of a spouse or through a divorce and subsequently declared null by the Church, etc.). They will also testify that, to the best of their knowledge, you intend to be in a marriage for life, to give your spouse the right to have children (if you are still of child-bearing age), to be faithful, and that you are freely making this decision.

[] **Other documents if applicable** (death certificate, if a spouse from a prior marriage has died; declaration of nullity or a declaration of invalidity due to lack of form for a prior marriage from a diocesan marriage tribunal, etc.)

[] **Diocese of Rockford marriage preparation requirement.** Because marriage is a lifelong vocation, some preparation is necessary so that you are aware of the responsibility of the vows that you would be exchanging. There are two preparation programs required: Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning. You can register for these programs online at:

<https://www.rockforddiocese.org/life/marriage-prep/>

Note: If you register for the online marriage preparation course and you are asked for your wedding date, just enter a date that is about 2 months from the time that you are registering (it does not matter what date you enter, you just need to enter a date). You can use Fr. Christopher DiTomo as the name of the priest who is preparing you.

If you have questions about which program you should choose you can call 815-399-4300 and ask for the LiFE Office (extension 377). You can also email LiFE@RockfordDiocese.org

You can meet with a priest so that he can compile these documents into a marriage file that will then be approved by the Diocese.