

# *Marriage Guidelines*

## **Introduction**

Congratulations on your decision to follow the call of the Lord to enter into Holy Matrimony. Jesus chose to perform His first miracle at a wedding. By His presence the Lord honored the relationship of a man and woman as husband and wife and graced their commitment. Throughout Holy Scriptures, particularly in the writings of St. Paul, we witness to the love of a husband and wife as a sign of God's love for his people.

Marriage is not just the day, but the life lived in the love of Christ for one another, for the family, and for the world around us. It is for this graced life that we invite you to prepare to make your marriage as full as possible in the power of our Lord's presence.

## **The Parish and Matrimony**

Members of the parish or their children may celebrate their marriage at Mary Help of Christians. The proper parish for marriage is either the parish of the bride or groom. The actual ceremony may only take place within the building of the Church itself.

The parish is responsible for marriage preparation. You will be working with the clergy and members of the parish to help you prepare for your married life ahead.

According to national guidelines at least 6 months should be the minimum time to prepare for matrimony. For further information, please call the parish office.