Engaged couples must allow a minimum of 6 months preparation time before the scheduled wedding date. However, it is recommended you prepare for your wedding at least 8-12 months prior to your wedding day.

If either of you will be less than 19 years of age on the date you plan to marry, a wedding date will not be set until the preparation process is completed.

If either of you have been previously married and civilly divorced, a written decree of nullity (annulment) is required prior to registering for marriage preparation.

What people say about marriage prep:

“We both went in with an open mind and we both walked away with so much we can put towards our life together.”
— LAURA

“Even though I’ve had a long first marriage, I felt there was valuable information presented and a great review. Well done, engaging, fun! Thanks!”
— DOLORES

“It was a good reminder to always be honest, giving and open with your partner.”
— JEREMY

Questions?
Contact us:
402.551.9003 ext. 1312
marriageprep@archomaha.org

Family.ArchOmaha.org
Congratulations on your engagement!
Complete these 5 required steps as you prepare for marriage in the Archdiocese of Omaha.

1. Contact Your Parish
You must have permission from your parish priest to register for marriage preparation. At this step, make sure you receive a copy of the Celebration of Matrimony workbook.

2. Register with the Archdiocese
Go to family.archomaha.org and follow the link for Preparing for Marriage. Register immediately upon talking with your parish.

Registration requires you to select one of the following:
- Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)
  If you choose CEE, contact us at marriageprep@archomaha.org to register and receive your FOCCUS username and password. Payment for FOCCUS is made at this time.

- Marriage: A Journey for Life (MAJ)
  If you choose MAJ, you will register and pay online. Your FOCCUS login will then be emailed to you within 5 business days.

OR

3. FOCCUS Facilitation
Complete the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory upon receiving your username and password. A FOCCUS Facilitator will then contact you to schedule a series of 4-6 weekly 1-hour sessions.

4. Attend Formation Program
Attend CEE or MAJ as selected. If possible, attend your formation program after you have completed your FOCCUS sessions and 6 months before your wedding date.

5. Meet With Your Priest
Complete the additional preparation required by your priest and plan your wedding rite using the Celebration of Matrimony workbook.

Celebrate the sacrament!

Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) $200
This overnight retreat offers couples entering into marriage for the first time an opportunity to share a weekend with other engaged couples. It offers each couple time to talk privately about many aspects of married life (family of origin, communication, finances, marital intimacy, children, religion). A team of two married couples and clergy lead the weekend, which runs from Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon. Reconciliation is offered and Mass is celebrated. All faiths welcome. Couples are not allowed to room together at this retreat.

Marriage: A Journey for Life (MAJ) $115
MAJ is for couples seeking to celebrate the sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church. This day of formation is fitting for all couples entering marriage: i.e. first marriage, civilly married preparing for a sacramental marriage, and couples when one or both have been previously married. MAJ focuses on the vocation of marriage and its challenges, establishing the importance of a united prayer life, communication, and fertility awareness. This one-day event will reveal the beauty of living the Catholic faith through the sacrament of marriage. MAJ is held monthly on Saturdays from 9:00am-4:00pm and includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Cost of FOCCUS is included.

Fertility Awareness is a broad term encompassing care for the whole person with particular attention given to the health of the woman, including what is known as Natural Family Planning (NFP). Fertility Awareness assists couples as they plan to welcome children and/or identify and address infertility concerns and maintain systemic health. Basic Fertility Awareness concepts are included in both CEE and MAJ as part of the introduction to the Theology of the Body.

A full course of Fertility Awareness is highly recommended for all couples and may be required by your pastor.

Approved Fertility Awareness/NFP providers in the archdiocese include Couple to Couple League, FertilityCare, Marquette Model, and Family of the Americas (Spanish only). See these websites for details on physicians, classes, and fees or contact the Center for Family Life Formation at 402.551.9003 ext. 1300.

Catholic Medical Association cathmed.org
Couple to Couple League cclomaha.org
CCL On-Line Classes ccli.org
Family of the Americas familyplanning.net/es
FertilityCare fertilitycare.org
Marquette Model nfp.marquette.edu