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.
5. **NFP/Fertility Awareness Course**

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. While an introduction to NFP is covered at CEE & MAJ, couples are highly encouraged to take a full course from one of our many NFP providers.

### 1. Contact Your Parish Priest

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 at Family.Archomaha.org. Your FOCCUS login will then be emailed to you within 5 business days.

### 3. FOCCUS Facilitation

Complete the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory upon receiving your username and password. A FOCCUS Facilitator will then contact you to schedule 4-6, 1-hour weekly 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. NFP/Fertility Awareness Course

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. While an introduction to NFP is covered at CEE & MAJ, couples are highly encouraged to take a full course from one of our many NFP providers.

### 6. Reconciliation

One of the greatest ways to spiritually prepare for marriage is to seek and receive the gift of God’s mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If it has been a long time since your last confession, simply ask your priest to help you along in the process. Remember to maintain the practice of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis throughout your married life as well.

### 7. Meet With Your Priest

Complete the additional preparation required by your priest and plan your wedding rite using the Celebration of Matrimony workbook.

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**Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)**

*Price: $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.

**FOCCUS for CEE Couples**

*Price: $30*

**Marriage: A Journey for Life (MAJ)**

*Price: $120*

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 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Cost of FOCCUS is included.