

Please read brochure closely; it contains important preparation information including the five easy steps.

Step One– Contact Your Parish

You must have permission from your parish priest to register for marriage preparation. At this first step, make sure you receive a copy of the ***Engaged Couple Guide for Catholic Marriage Preparation***.

Please note:

- Archdiocese of Omaha policy requires engaged couples to begin the final stage of marriage preparation a minimum of 6 months before the scheduled wedding date. *However*, couples most benefit from marriage preparation if their FOCCUS facilitation and retreat or workshop steps are completed 3 - 6 months prior to their wedding day. Please plan accordingly.
- A wedding date will not be set until the preparation process is completed *if either of you* will be less than 19 years of age on the date you plan to marry.
- If either or both of you have been previously married and then divorced, a written decree of nullity (annulment) is required prior to registering for marriage preparation.

Step Two– Select a Formation Program

Your formation program will have two main components. Each of these is **required** if you plan to marry in the Archdiocese of Omaha:

1. The FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory.
2. A formation retreat or workshop:

• **Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)**

or

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

Select and register for the formation program of your choice online at archomaha.org. This process will also register you for the FOCCUS Inventory.

Step Three- FOCCUS Facilitation

Complete the FOCCUS Inventory and attend the required sessions with your facilitator.

Step Four- Attend Formation Program

Attend CEE or MAJ as selected above.

Step Five- Meet With Your Priest

Complete any additional preparation required by your priest and plan your wedding rite using the *Engaged Couple Guide for Catholic Marriage Preparation*.

2016 Formation Program Options

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. This experience offers each individual 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 offer presentations on this weekend, held 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. Dates, registration, and CEE payment information online at these websites:

Norfolk www.catholicee.com

Omaha www.omahacee.org

Couples registering for CEE also need to register for FOCCUS by contacting the marriage prep specialist at marriageprep@archomaha.org.

FOCCUS for CEE Couples \$30

Marriage: A Journey for Life (MAJ) \$150

Developed *for couples who are either entering a first marriage or who are civilly married* and now preparing for a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church, MAJ provides the opportunity for prayerful reflection and discussion of topics important to living the vocation of marriage within the context of the Catholic faith. Topics include Communication, Sacramental Marriage, Marital Intimacy and Responsible Love, Challenges to the Vocation of Marriage, and Stewardship.

MAJ begins with a Friday session 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm; couples return for a Saturday session, 8:30 am - 4 pm.

Urban Friday/Saturday

Jan 8/9 St. Leo

Jan 22/23 St. Pius

Feb 5/6 St. Pat's, Gretna

Feb 19/20 St. Leo

April 1/2 St. Pius

April 8/9 St. Pat's, Gretna

April 22/23 St. Gerald

May 6/7 St. Elizabeth Ann

May 20/21 St. Pat Gretna

June 17/18 St. James

June 24/25 St. Pius

July 22/23 St. Leo

Aug 5/6 St. Gerald

Sept 9/10 St. Elizabeth Ann

Oct 14/15 St. Gerald

Nov 18/19 St. Elizabeth Ann

Dec 2/3 St. James

Rural Friday/Saturday

Jan 15/16 Schuyler

Feb 26/27 Norfolk

March 11/12 Schuyler

Aug 19/20 Schuyler

Sept 23/25 Norfolk

Nov 11/12 Schuyler

Norfolk-Sacred Heart Parish Center, 2301 Madison Ave. Schuyler - St. Benedict Center, 1126 Road I

MAJ-R* (Remarriage) \$150

Developed *for couples when one or both have been married before*. Building on the MAJ foundation, special attention is given to topics specific to marriage after the loss of a previous relationship through death or divorce and annulment including the effects of loss, combining households and forming relationships within the new family.

MAJ-R begins with a Friday session 6:30 pm -9:30 pm; couples return for a Saturday session, 8:30 am - 4 pm.

Urban

Jan 29/30 St. Elizabeth Ann

July 8/9 St. Elizabeth Ann

Oct 7/8 St. Elizabeth Ann

Rural

April 15/16 Schuyler

*MAJ-R couples with sons/daughters of any age are **required** to attend an additional 2 hour parenting/step-parenting formation session. (*see below*).

*Parenting/Step-parenting No Additional Fee

Any couple bringing children to their marriage is encouraged to take this class; note that it is *required for those in MAJ-R*. Once you have registered for the parent formation component, you will receive a survey that will help us tailor materials to your specific parenting needs. You will then be contacted by a trained facilitator to set up your individualized two-hour parenting session.

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

Basic NFP concepts are included in both CEE and MAJ. A full course of NFP is highly recommended for all couples. Approved providers in the Archdiocese of Omaha include Couple to Couple League, *FertilityCare*, and Family of the Americas (*Spanish only*). See these websites for details on classes and fees.

Couple to Couple League www.cclomaha.org

On-line classes at www.ccli.org

FertilityCare www.fertilitycare.org

Family of the Americas www.familyplanning.net/es

Three stages of marriage preparation:

Remote Preparation- The formation you received from your family and school while growing up.

Proximate Preparation- Formation rooted in your experiences of developing adult relationships, as well as your experiences of dating and courtship.

Immediate Preparation- The formation that the Church offers as you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. Immediate preparation is meant to help you identify and strengthen gaps from previous stages of formation and prepare you to receive the sacrament.

Nearly 1100 couples prepare for marriage annually in the Archdiocese of Omaha. In addition, Omaha assists tens of thousands of couples across the country and around the world through FOCCUS, Inc. USA. We take this responsibility seriously and are pleased to offer you a well developed formation process based on years of experience along with ongoing research and development.

Archdiocese of Omaha couples can expect to receive the following during preparation.

1. **Engaged Couple Guide for Catholic Marriage Preparation**®. Please begin using this resource immediately to pray together and reflect on the various biblical passages related to marriage.
2. **SOW-REAPP**®. This resource, in the pocket of your Engaged Couple Guide, offers a method of reflection to assist in understanding how your stories can become more fully integrated with the story of Salvation History.
3. **Facilitated sessions** to explore your responses to the FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory with a trained FOCCUS facilitator. During your sessions you will be given the following resources:
 - *b'tween*® **Reflection and Discussion Guide**
 - *b'tween* **FOCCUS for the Future**
 - **FOCCUS Couple Completion Certificate** (Some states offer a reduced marriage license fee for this.)
4. A guided retreat (CEE) or workshop (MAJ) to assist you in reflecting on the nature and meaning of marriage.
5. Additional session (s) with your pastor or their designate to further discuss important topics, assist you in planning the wedding rite, and support your entering into the sacrament of Marriage.



www.foryourmarriage.org
Created for you by the United States
Conference of Catholic Bishops



ARCHDIOCESE of OMAHA

Center for Family Life Formation

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Archdiocese of Omaha Marriage Preparation

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