

## Congratulations on your engagement!

Follow these 5 required steps  
as you prepare for marriage in the  
Archdiocese of Omaha.

### STEP 1 – 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*.

### STEP 2 – Register with the Archdiocese

Go to [Family.ArchOmaha.org/preparing-marriage](http://Family.ArchOmaha.org/preparing-marriage)  
Register immediately upon talking with your parish.

Registration requires you to select one of the following (see descriptions on center panel):

#### • Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)

If you choose CEE, you must contact our marriage prep specialist, [marriageprep@archomaha.org](mailto:marriageprep@archomaha.org), to register and receive your FOCCUS username and password. Payment for FOCCUS is made at this time.

OR

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

If you choose MAJ, you will register and pay online. Then your FOCCUS username and password will be emailed to you within five business days.

### STEP 3 – FOCCUS Facilitation

Complete the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory upon receiving your username and password. Then a FOCCUS facilitator will contact you to schedule a series of 4-6 weekly one-hour sessions.

### STEP 4 – Attend Formation Program

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

### STEP 5 – Meet With Your Priest

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

## 2017 Formation Options

CEE and MAJ dates and locations listed online

### 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.

### 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.

### MAJ-R\* (Remarriage) \$150

Developed for couples when one or both have been married before. Building on the MAJ foundation, 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 on Saturday, 8:30 am - 4 pm.

\*MAJ-R couples with sons/daughters of any age are required to attend an additional 2 hour Parenting/ Step-parenting formation session (see next page).

### \*Parenting/Step-parenting No Additional Fee

Any couple bringing children to their marriage is encouraged to take this class; it is *required for those in MAJ-R*. Once you have registered for Parenting/Step-parenting, you will complete a brief online survey designed to help tailor the two-hour session to your specific parenting needs.

### Fertility Awareness (FA)

Fertility Awareness is a broad term encompassing care for the whole person with particular attention given to the complete health of the woman. Including what is known as Natural Family Planning (NFP), FA assists couples as they plan to welcome children and/or identify and address infertility concerns and maintain systemic health. Basic FA concepts are included in both CEE and MAJ as part of the introduction to Theology of the Body. A full course of FA is highly recommended for all couples and may be required by your pastor. Approved FA/NFP 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 physicians, classes, and fees. Couples who are preparing for marriage are encouraged to seek out medical professionals who will assist them in living the Catholic faith by providing care that is scientifically sound and affirming of human dignity from conception until natural death.

Catholic Medical Association.....[cathmed.org](http://cathmed.org)

Couple to Couple League.....[cclomaha.org](http://cclomaha.org)

CCL On-Line Classes.....[ccli.org](http://ccli.org)

Family of the Americas.....[familyplanning.net/es](http://familyplanning.net/es)

FertilityCare.....[fertilitycare.org](http://fertilitycare.org)

### Archdiocese of Omaha Polices

- Engaged couples must allow a minimum of 6 months preparation time before the scheduled wedding date. *However*, couples most benefit from marriage preparation if their FOCCUS facilitation and retreat or workshop steps are completed 6 months prior to their wedding day. See online scheduling aid for assistance.
- 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 civilly divorced, a written decree of nullity (annulment) is required prior to registering for marriage preparation.

We celebrate your decision to be married in one of our parishes with family and friends present to witness your Sacrament! We encourage your active involvement in parish life through regularly attending Mass, receiving the grace available to you through confession, and praying together about the ways in which you are called to build up the Body of Christ through your service to others. We hope your parish community will be an integral part of your life now and in all the years ahead.

May God's blessing be upon you now and all the days of your life!

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Nearly 1200 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. You can expect to receive the following:

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 story 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 *b'tween™* resources:
  - **Reflection and Discussion Guide**
  - **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 his designate to further discuss important topics, assist you in planning the wedding rite, and support your ongoing formation for the sacrament of Marriage.



ARCHDIOCESE of OMAHA  
**CENTER for  
 FAMILY LIFE  
 FORMATION**




**[Family.ArchOmaha.org/preparing-marriage](http://Family.ArchOmaha.org/preparing-marriage)**

Nazareth Hall  
 3300 N. 60th Street  
 Omaha, NE 68104

Phone: 402.551.9003 x1302  
 Toll Free: 888.800.8352  
 Fax: 402.551.3050

**e-mail: [marriageprep@archomaha.org](mailto:marriageprep@archomaha.org)**



**FOR YOUR MARRIAGE**

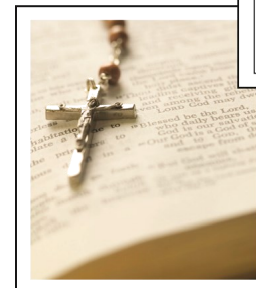
[www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

Created for you by the United States  
 Conference of Catholic Bishops

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[Family.ArchOmaha.org/preparing-marriage](http://Family.ArchOmaha.org/preparing-marriage)

# Marriage Formation Archdiocese of Omaha

**2017**



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