Archdiocese of Omaha

Marriage Preparation Policies

- Engaged couples must allow a minimum of 6 months preparation time before the scheduled wedding date. However, it is recommended that 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.

"If a man and a woman marry in order to be companions on the journey from earth to heaven, then their union will bring great joy to themselves and to others."

— St. John Chrysostom

Archdiocese of Omaha
Evangelization & Family Life Office
2222 N 111th St
Omaha, NE 68164

402.551.9003 ext. 1312
marriageprep@archomaha.org

ArchOmaha.org/MarriagePrep

Archdiocese of Omaha

ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

7 Steps to Marriage

2022

ArchOmaha.org/MarriagePrep

7 Steps to Marriage

Complete these 7 steps as you prepare for marriage in the Archdiocese of Omaha.

1. Contact Your Parish Priest
   You must work with your parish priest to prepare for marriage. At this step, you will receive a copy of the Celebration of Matrimony Workbook.

2. Register for a Formation Program
   Go to ArchOmaha.org/MarriagePrep and follow the link to "Register with the Archdiocese." Register immediately after talking with your pastor.

   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. You will receive your FOCCUS login within 5 business days.

3. FOCCUS Facilitation
   Complete the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory once you receive your login information. A FOCCUS Facilitator will contact you to schedule your inventory sessions.

4. Attend a Formation Program
   Attend CEE or MAJ after you have completed your FOCCUS sessions and 6 months prior to your wedding date.

5. NFP/Fertility Awareness Course
   Natural Family Planning (NFP) assists couples as they plan to welcome children and helps to identify and address infertility concerns. Go to ArchOmaha.org//NFP to find a course that's right for you. While an introduction to NFP is covered at CEE and MAJ, couples are highly encouraged to take a full course.

6. Reconciliation
   In order to spiritually prepare for marriage, it is essential 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, ask your priest to help you in the process. Maintain the practice of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly throughout your married life.

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

Formation Program Options

Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)

In-person - $200 OR Livestream - $75

This retreat offers couples entering marriage for the first time an opportunity to share a weekend with other engaged couples. Couples have time to reflect privately on various topics related to marriage. A team of married couples and clergy lead the weekend, which runs from Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon.
Reconciliation and Mass are offered.
FOCCUS for CEE couples is $30.

Marriage: A Journey for Life (MAJ)

Livestream - $80

MAJ is offered virtually for all couples entering marriage: (first marriage, convalidation, second marriages). MAJ focuses on communication, spousal spirituality, and fertility awareness. There are two options for the convenience of engaged couples: Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or a two-weeknight option on Tues/Thurs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
FOCCUS for MAJ couples is included.