

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.

Mentor Couples

Your parish may ask you to meet with a Mentor couple as you prepare for marriage. If you would like more resources or information on how to connect with a Mentor couple on your own, visit www.archomaha.org/marriageprep

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**"So they are no longer
two but one flesh."**

- Matthew 19:6



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

**7 Steps to
Marriage
2023**



Archdiocese
of Omaha

Seven 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 Step 2: "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, go to archomaha.org/marriageprep to register for FOCCUS under "Step 3". Your \$30 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 five 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 at least two months prior to your wedding date.

5. NFP/Fertility Awareness Course

Fertility awareness courses 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 overview to NFP is covered at CEE and MAJ, couples are highly encouraged to take an intro course.

6. Reconciliation

In order to spiritually prepare for marriage, it is essential to prepare your hearts and souls before your sacramental union. 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 monthly.

7. Plan your Wedding Liturgy

Plan your wedding rite using the Celebration of Matrimony workbook with your wedding parish's coordinator or pastor.

Limited virtual retreat dates:

Plan ahead to register for a retreat, as virtual retreats are offered on a quarterly basis in 2023. Dates are posted on the website.

Formation Program Options

Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)

In-person - \$200 (covers lodging and meals)
Livestream - \$75

This retreat offers 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 - \$90

MAJ is offered virtually 4x a year 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.



Follow these steps at
www.archomaha.org/marriageprep