

After you become engaged, you should contact your parish as soon as possible and

set up a meeting with a priest or deacon to assist you in your marriage preparation. During this initial meeting, the priest or deacon

STEP 1

Meet with your Priest or Deacon

When: BEFORE setting a wedding date

will provide you with the information needed to complete Steps 2-6 of the marriage preparation process. He may meet with you several times before the wedding to provide catechesis on marriage, explore any critical issues that arise, and discuss other topics that may be pertinent.

Shortly after meeting with your priest or deacon, you will be asked to complete

a marriage preparation "inventory," which is a series of questions designed to assess each of your habits, expectations,

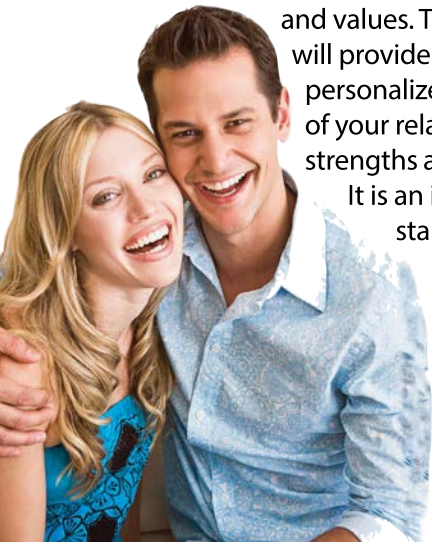
and values. This inventory will provide you with a personalized profile of your relationship's strengths and weaknesses.

It is an important starting point for identifying and discussing any areas that need attention.

STEP 2

Marriage Preparation Inventory

When: As soon as possible after meeting with your priest or deacon



STEP 3

Educational Component

When: Ideally, at least six months before your wedding

- Diocesan Marriage Prep Program
- Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend Program
- Parish-based Marriage Prep Program (format varies)

Here you will explore the meaning and mystery of marriage and understand the promises you are making through your wedding vows. You will also have the opportunity to fine-tune practical skills such as conflict resolution, decision making, and communication.

You will be asked to complete one of the following educational components:



You will receive an introductory presentation on Natural Family Planning (NFP). NFP is not

STEP 4

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

When: Ideally, at least six months before your wedding

only effective for naturally postponing pregnancy, it is also effective in overcoming

obstacles that compromise your ability to become parents. Attend an NFP class in order to learn how to plan your family in accord with God's design for marriage.

Visit familylife.colsdioc.org for the current schedule and registration information.

The Church invites all Catholics to prepare themselves spiritually prior to their

marriage by celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. If it has been awhile since your last confession, simply

STEP 5

Sacrament of Reconciliation

When: Before the wedding, and as necessary

make that known to the priest and he will walk you through the sacrament. Even if you are not of the Catholic faith, you still may benefit from spiritual direction from a priest or deacon. The regular practice of the sacrament of reconciliation helps keep marriages healthy and strong.



You will meet with your priest or deacon to ensure that everything is in order for

STEP 6

Final Meeting with your Priest or Deacon

When: Before the wedding

your wedding liturgy. Talk with him about getting involved in your parish community so that the Church

can continue to support you throughout your married life.

REGISTER

for Educational Components
and NFP at: familylife.colsdioc.org

“For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the church.”
(Eph 5:31-32).



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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

6 STEPS TO A REWARDING Marriage PREPARATION



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