

Your Marriage Preparation Checklist

(Use this guide to keep track of
all the parts of the process)

Step One: Initial Meeting

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Step Two: Second Meeting: Premarital Inventory

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Step Three: Formation Session – Part I:

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Seminar

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Step Four: Formation Sessions – Part II:

Engaged Encounter Weekend

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

~ AND ~

Meetings with Marriage Preparation Ministers
(number of sessions to be determined)

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Step Five: Liturgy Planning

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Step Six: Wedding Rehearsal

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____



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Getting Married in the Diocese of Worcester



*An Overview of the
Marriage Preparation
Process
for Engaged Couples*

Welcome, and Congratulations!

You are beginning a wonderful journey as you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church.

Just as preparing for your wedding involves much time, energy, and of course, commitment, so too does the even more important work of preparing for the life-long marriage to which you are committing.

Marriage preparation in the Catholic Church is a beautiful and enriching process. It serves to strengthen your relationship with God and each other, to prepare you for a lifetime of marriage built on Christ. With Christ at the center of your lives and your marriage, the joys and sorrows, the ups and downs, and the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life, take on new meaning, and you can get through anything!

This brochure outlines the major steps involved in the marriage preparation process. The priest or deacon officiating at your wedding will explain this process to you in more detail and will guide you through it.

Know that the Church cares deeply about you and your marriage. We offer you our prayerful support as you seek to discover God's special plan for your life together.

STEPS OF THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS

Step 1: Initial Meeting

Contact the priest or deacon at your parish to schedule an appointment.

Step 2: Second Meeting: Premarital Inventory

At this second meeting you will both fill out a premarital inventory form. This tool serves as a way to understand yourselves and each other better, identifying strengths in your relationship as well as areas that might need to be addressed. The different topics in the inventory will be discussed in subsequent formation sessions (*see Step Four*).

Step 3: Formation - Part I: God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Seminar

Your priest or deacon will give you a brochure describing this one-day seminar which includes a schedule of dates to choose from and a registration form. It is best to attend as soon as possible because the content of this program forms the basis of discussion for the rest of the marriage preparation process. Be sure to register early as classes fill up quickly.

Step 4: Formation - Part II: Engaged Encounter Weekend

(see the brochure in your marriage preparation packet for more details and registration information)

~ AND ~

Meetings with the Marriage Preparation Minister *(an average of four to six*

sessions, as determined by the marriage preparation minister(s), who will coordinate meeting dates with the couple)

Both the Engaged Encounter experience and the meetings in your parish discuss in-depth the vocation and sacrament of marriage and its related issues and life-skills. These sessions aim to provide an opportunity for couples to deepen and enrich their relationship with each other, God, and the Church.

Step 5: Preparing the Wedding Liturgy

Once all necessary documentation is complete, the priest or deacon will assist you in planning the wedding liturgy, reviewing with you the options available, and helping you, as a couple, to prayerfully enter into this significant expression of your faith and commitment with the gathered community.

Step 6: Wedding Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal provides an opportunity to not only become familiar with the "logistics" of the wedding liturgy, but also to assist the families and wedding party to enter into the celebration of this beautiful sacrament in a spirit of prayer and unity.

