



DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE
OFFICE OF MARRIAGE, FAMILY & LIFE
MARRIAGE PREPARATION STEPS

CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR ENGAGEMENT!

Catholic Marriage is a Sacrament, meaning it is a specific avenue by which we receive God's Grace. If you allow it, your Catholic Marriage will transform you, your future spouse, your family and your community.

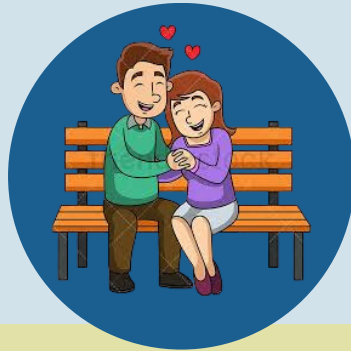
The process starts by calling your parish. Be sure to speak with your priest/pastor BEFORE setting your wedding date or making any location reservations. You will be spending time preparing for your wedding day AND your marriage...and this begins with the priest/pastor.

The Diocese of Evansville has three components to help you prepare for your upcoming marriage. The Church has a duty to make sure you and your fiancé are free to marry, which is one of the reasons why your first step is to speak with your priest/pastor. Plus, they will be able to help you know the forms you need to gather (like baptismal or birth certificates, etc).

Again, Congrats!

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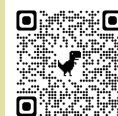
FOCCUS PREMARITAL
INVENTORY

The FOCCUS Inventory gives you, the couple, a tool to discuss areas of your relationship such as finances, communication, spirituality, children, careers, pets, and more. It is okay if you have not discussed these topics before but it is important to discuss them before you get married. Your answers are discussed with a trained facilitator, usually your priest or deacon. This inventory is initiated by the parish and sent to you via email.

UNVEILED RETREAT
OR
PARISH SPONSOR
COUPLE PROGRAM

Your parish may have a sponsor couple program, where you meet with a married couple several times to discuss topics related to Catholic Marriage OR You may choose to attend one of the marriage preparation retreats offered by the Diocese. You can decide this with your priest/pastor.

<https://www.evdio.org/marriage-preparation.html>



NATURAL FAMILY
PLANNING OVERVIEW

Openness to children and cooperating with God's creative power is essential to a healthy, Catholic marriage. Your doctor may be used to prescribing artificial birth control (pills) but these can be harmful and are not approved by the Catholic Church. Rather, the Catholic Church teaches a natural way to build your family. This NFP overview is free and takes about an hour. (NOTE: NFP is covered at the UNVEILED RETREAT)

<https://holyfamilycenterforlife.com/>

