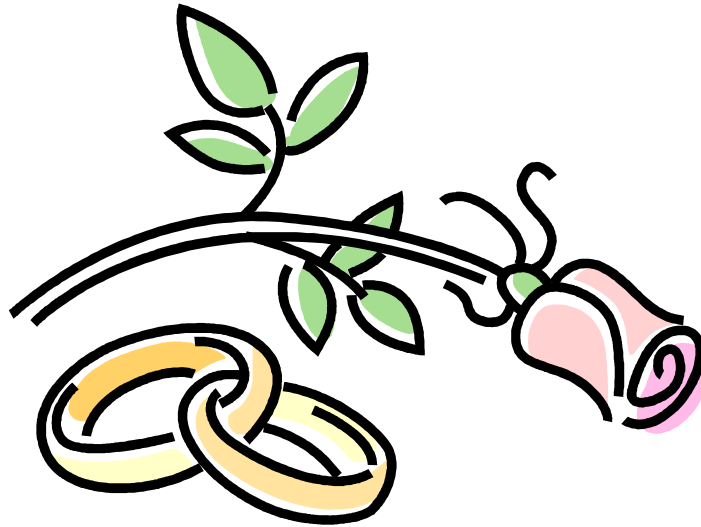


Marriage Preparation

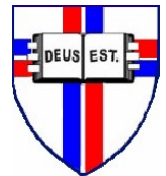
Preparing for Life Together



September 2010
to
June 2011

*N.B. No sessions during
the months of July or August*

Archdiocese
of
Vancouver



Office
of
Religious Education

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www.rcav.org/m-prep

Welcome!

This course is intended to be one of the most meaningful learning experiences of your relationship. The priests, experts and married couples who share insights and stories throughout the course will present many questions that only the two of you can answer. Love calls for you to be open and it is that openness that will strengthen your love and faith in both God and each other.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. We are planning to get married in the Catholic Church. What do we have to do?

A. Before doing anything else, call your parish office to request a meeting with the priest. He will give you an overview of what is required for you as a couple. Most parishes recommend that you contact them at least 6 months prior to your desired wedding date.

Q. My fiancé(e) isn't Catholic. Is that a problem?

A. Not necessarily. Many Catholics marry non-Catholics or non-Christians. However, having different faith traditions can sometimes be a source of difficulty in married life. It's important to communicate openly and honestly with each other about your expectations in this area. Your priest must discuss this with you and may help to obtain the necessary documentation (dispensation).

Q. What does 'preparation' consist of?

A. This time prior to your wedding is very enriching and special. It is easy to get caught up in planning the wedding day itself. However, it's how you live life after the wedding day that will determine the success of your marriage. Much of this time before your wedding should be spent gaining a thorough understanding of each other; your values, beliefs, character traits, views on important issues, etc.

Q. Do we need to do any 'formal' preparation?

A. The Catholic Church requires that couples marrying in the Church go through a process of preparation. It is the responsibility of your parish priest to ensure that you have been adequately prepared. The Archdiocese has developed a program to assist him in this. Alternatively, a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend may better meet your specific needs. In addition, there is Church and government paperwork to be completed. You should discuss all of this with your priest as soon as possible.

Q. What is the advantage of attending a marriage preparation course?

A. The greatest advantage of all marriage preparation programs is the focused time you spend together learning about and discussing topics related to your relationship. In comments on the Archdiocesan course, many couples say they found it very beneficial and were glad they attended (even if they didn't want to at first!) Another common remark is that hearing the real-life stories of the presenters is especially reassuring and helpful.

Q. What's the difference between the Archdiocesan evening course and the Saturday course?

A. There is no substantial difference in content. For couple's convenience, we have two schedule formats available. However, due to limited space, the Saturday courses require advance reservations, while the evening courses do not. **Saturday courses fill up quickly so please call well in advance.**

Q. What does the Archdiocesan course consist of?

A. The course consists of seven sessions during which priests, experts and married couples will share their knowledge and experiences with you on a variety of topics in a large group format.

Q. Do we need to register for the courses?

A. Some of the courses require advance reservations, others do not. Please read carefully the section called "Registration Information". (All courses require that you meet with your priest first to receive a signed registration form.) Actual registration is done on site.

Q. What should we do if we can't attend a session?

A. Evening Course: There is a lot of flexibility built into the program. As long as you both attend all 7 sessions (#1 - #7), you can take them in any order at any parish. You don't need to call us to do a makeup, just show up at the other location. Be sure to sign the "make up classes" sheet at the registration table.

Saturday Course: You should be able to complete all three days at one location as the order may possibly shift from day to day.

Q. Can I take part of an evening course and part of a Saturday course?

A. No, the Evening and Saturday courses are not interchangeable as the Saturday courses require reservations due to space limits.

Q. How much does the course cost?

A. Evening and 3-Saturday Course: \$100 per couple (subject to change)

Q. My fiancé(e) lives in another city or country. What do we do?

A. Be sure to talk this over with your priest. It's up to him to determine what steps you should take. He may ask that you attend the Archdiocesan course on your own and that your fiancé(e) do the same where he/she is living. Or perhaps you and your fiancé(e) can attend an Engaged Encounter weekend and/or receive another form of instruction. Your priest will let you know what is needed.

Q. How does our priest know that we've completed the course?

A. Attendance is kept during the Archdiocesan course. **Both bride and groom** record attendance on the sheets provided each day. **When you both have completed all sessions, a certificate of completion is automatically sent to your priest. If a session appears missed, we hold the certificate** until completion of the whole program or are asked otherwise by your priest. Catholic Engaged Encounter similarly may provide its own documentation.

Q. What is the Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend?

A. Catholic Engaged Encounter is a unique, balanced program built on an encounter retreat model with a rich 30+ year history internationally. Normally Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, it is a time of married couples and a priest sharing time, life experience and teaching in groups smaller in size than the Archdiocesan program but covering an equivalent content. It is also a time of guided personal sharing and discussion away from many of the distractions of daily life.

Q. Is the Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend run by this office?

A. Catholic Engaged Encounter is approved by the Archdiocese but is actually organized by the local chapter of that organization. For a schedule or other information regarding C.E.E. please call (604)451-3300 or visit their website at: www.ceewest.com.

Q. Can we do more than one program?

A. Yes, you can do both if you wish. Also, after a few years of marriage you might consider a Marriage Encounter Weekend. For information visit www.wwmecanada.org or find other opportunities for enrichment of your marriage and life together.

May God bless you as you prepare for life together.

Registration Information

SATURDAY COURSES REQUIRE RESERVATIONS, EVENINGS DO NOT.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

PREREQUISITE FOR ATTENDING THE COURSES:

You must meet with your priest prior to attending any of the courses offered. He will give you a signed registration form when you meet with him. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE FORM IS COMPLETED** and bring it with you to your first session. (If you are unable to meet with him before the course starts, you may still attend, but you must bring the signed registration form with you next time.) **When reservations are required, please call Teresa Aere, Tuesday to Friday @ (604)683-0281 ext. 236.**

EVENING COURSES

Note: sessions may not be 7 consecutive weeks due to holidays, long weekends or other events. Please check the complete schedule.

- NO** reservations are required for evening courses.
- Bring signed & **completed** registration form to 1st session (obtained from your priest.)
- Come 15-30 minutes early for the 1st session.
- Bring fee (cash or cheque payable to "O.R.E.")

SATURDAY COURSES

- You **MUST** phone to **reserve** for Saturday courses.
- Bring signed & **completed** registration form to 1st session (obtained from your priest.)
- Come 20-30 minutes early for the 1st day.
- Bring fee (cash or cheque payable to "O.R.E.")
- You should be able to complete all three days at one location.

EVENING COURSES

Location and day - 2010	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
St. Helen's - Tuesdays 7:30pm Church basement 3860 Triumph St., Burnaby	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
Holy Rosary - Thursdays 7:30pm Rosary Hall 650 Richards St., Vancouver	Sept 23	Sept 30	Oct 7	Oct 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov 4

Location and day - 2011	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
St. Patrick's - Mondays 7:30pm Parish hall 2881 Main Street, Vancouver	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28
St. Helen's - Tuesdays 7:30pm Church basement 3860 Triumph St., Burnaby	Jan 25	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22	Mar 1	Mar 8
Holy Rosary - Thursdays 7:30pm Rosary Hall 650 Richards St., Vancouver	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31	Apr 7	Apr 14
St. Mary's - Tuesdays 7:30pm Church basement 5251 Joyce St., Vancouver	Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 26	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24
Our Lady of Fatima - Mondays 7:30 pm Church Library 315 Walker St., Coquitlam	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 30	June 6	June 13	June 20
St. Paul's - Wednesdays 7:30pm Parish hall 8251 St. Alban's Road, Richmond	May 18	May 25	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29

NB - NO EVENING CLASSES ON APRIL 19 or MAY 23 - CLASSES RESUME ON APRIL 26 & MAY 30

SATURDAY COURSES

2010	Location	Day A	Day B	Day C
3 SATURDAYS	St. Mary's Parish - School Gym 5251 Joyce St., Vancouver	September 11 9am - 1:15pm	September 18 9am - 1:15pm	September 25 9am - 1:30pm
3 SATURDAYS	St. Patrick's Parish - Parish hall 2881 Main Street, Vancouver	November 13 9am - 1:15pm	November 20 9am - 1:15pm	November 27 9am - 1:30pm

2011	Location	Day A	Day B	Day C
3 SATURDAYS	St. Francis de Sales Parish - School gym 6656 Balmoral Street, Burnaby	January 22 9am - 1:15pm	January 29 9am - 1:15pm	February 5 9am - 1:30pm
3 SATURDAYS	Immaculate Conception Parish - Parish hall - 8842 - 119 th Street, Delta	February 26 9am - 1:15pm	March 5 9am - 1:15pm	March 12 9am - 1:30pm
3 SATURDAYS	St. Andrew's Parish - Church basement 480 East 47 th Avenue, Vancouver	April 2 9am - 1:15pm	April 9 9am - 1:15pm	April 16 9am - 1:30pm
3 SATURDAYS	Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish - Don Bosco Centre - 10461 - 140 th Street, Surrey	May 28 9am - 1:15pm	June 4 9am - 1:15pm	June 11 9am - 1:30pm

There are NO sessions available in July & August.