

## LIFE SKILLS COURSE

### Your three options

#### Witness to Love

##### Parish Mentor Couple

Ask your pastor if Witness to Love is available in your parish! Choose a mentor couple in your parish, or be matched with a couple your pastor suggests. You and your mentors will meet in person, enriching each other's relationship during this journey.

Cost \$75

#### Witness to Love

##### Virtual Path

Ask your pastor if this path is available for your preparation. This path prepares couples who are separated by distance. You will both participate in a series of virtual videos that will enhance your relationship. There will be follow up discussions with the Marriage Preparation Coordinator.

Cost TBD

#### Catholic Marriage Prep.com Online Pre-Cana

This online Pre-Cana is ideal for couples with irregular schedules or those separated by distance during their engagement. You will be matched with a married couple to work with online.

Cost \$194

## Steps to Take

Allow 6-8 months to complete

**Step 1: Make an appointment with your priest or deacon before you set a wedding date. Complete initial paperwork.**

**Complete Fully Engaged Survey**

**Step 2: Marriage Preparation Life Skills Course**

Choose one of these three approved courses.

- Witness to Love—Parish Mentor Couple
- Online Pre-Cana
- **Witness to Love Virtual Path with Marriage Preparation Coordinator**

**Step 3: Natural Family Planning Introduction**

Complete instruction through online course or Vermont practitioner.

**Step 4: Diocesan Marriage Preparation Retreat**

**Step 5: Sacramental and Liturgical Preparation**

Complete final paperwork. Bring all sacramental certificates. Bring certificates from Life Skills Course, NFP Course, Diocesan Retreat.

- **Obtain your Civil Marriage License at any Vermont Town Hall.**



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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## Marriage Preparation Vermont



## Message from the Bishop

My brothers and sisters, congratulations on your engagement to each other in a commitment to soon celebrate the Rite of Marriage and to live as husband and wife in a covenant of love. It is truly a sign of the blessedness of your love for each other that you are choosing to be married within the Church. My encouragement to you is that you foster the faith you have for each other within the Faith of the Church. Pray with and for each other and worship God in the celebration of his Sacraments, especially the Sunday Eucharist. "A Marriage that is desired, prepared for, celebrated, and lived daily in the light of faith is that which is joined by the Church, strengthened by a sacrificial offering, sealed by a blessing, announced by Angels, and ratified by the Father ..." [from the Introduction to 'The Rite of Marriage'].

I pray that you will find this program of Marriage Preparation to bear good fruit in you now as you continue to be formed and prepared for your future life as husband and wife. May God bless you both.

Bishop Christopher Coyne  
Bishop of Burlington

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Why do we have to wait 6-8 months to marry?*

This preparation time allows couples the adequate time to meet with the priest or deacon, complete the pre-marriage inventory and marriage preparation programs so as to make an informed decision on the readiness for marriage.

If there are special circumstances that might affect the marriage, any dispensations or documentation that is needed, having this time to obtain the information helps to alleviate added stress.

*What if we are living out of state but want to be married in Vermont?*

Couples who are planning a "destination wedding" in Vermont, must first contact their pastor in the state where they reside. Couples will complete the marriage preparation in that diocese.

Couples must also contact the Vermont pastor at the time they begin meeting with the pastor preparing them.

Please allow 6 months to coordinate with your pastors and the venue where you plan to marry.

*Why do we have to take Natural Family Planning?*

The Catholic faith believes in the responsible, unconditional, and sacrificial love in the sexual union of all married couples. NFP presents the couple with the opportunity to better understand their fertility, while fostering respect and communication in the married relationship.

*What if one of us isn't Catholic?*

Marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics are not prohibited, but you should both speak to your pastor as soon as possible. He will guide you in your preparation.

*Are there any resources to help us with our planning?*

1. Your pastor is a great person to ask.
2. [Invited: The Ultimate Catholic Wedding Planner](#), Stephanie Calis
3. Visiting our website: [vermontcatholic.org/marriage-prep/](http://vermontcatholic.org/marriage-prep/)
4. USCCB recommended video: "Saying I Do: What happens at a Catholic Wedding" <https://youtu.be/3uAHwtBRq5c>

