

# Preparing for Marriage - If you live in Vermont

## Step 1: Contact the church to meet with a priest or deacon

**Do this before** you set any date, allowing 6-8 months

Allow yourselves time to meet more than once to complete preliminary paperwork, a pre-marital inventory, and the documents you will need to marry. You will also set up a time to go over the inventory results and the specifics of your wedding.

## Step 2: Marriage Preparation Life Skills Course

**Choose one of these three approved courses.** You will need to bring your certificate of completion to your pastor.

### •Agape Catholic Marriage Course Online

Engaged couples register, complete survey sent electronically and are paired with a mentor couple to complete. This program takes 4-6 weeks. The cost is \$194.

### •Witness to Love—Parish Mentor Couple

Engaged couples select or are paired with a mentor couple at the parish and complete a series of 6 lessons. There are established criteria for the mentor couple. The couples meet regularly to complete the course. The cost is \$75.

### •Witness to Love Course Online

Engaged couples are given a series of videos to view, discussing with guided questions after each one. After viewing and discussion, the couple will meet with a selected Marriage Preparation Coordinator to discuss. This program takes 4-6 weeks. The suggested donation is \$75.

## Step 3: Natural Family Planning

Fertility Awareness as it relates to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the desire God has for your marital relationship are taught through meeting with a trained and certified Vermont practitioner or through the online Couple to Couple league.

Please contact Marriage and Family Life Coordinator listed on this brochure, for up-to-date information. You will need to bring your certificate of completion to your pastor.

## Step 4: God's Desire for Your Marriage—Theology Retreat

This is one day retreat follows the preparation completed in Steps 1-3. Engaged couples contact the Marriage and Family Life Coordinator listed on this brochure, and will be given Witness to Love materials to view prior to the retreat. You will need to bring your certificate of completion to your pastor.

## Step 5: Sacramental and Liturgical Preparation

Meet with your pastor to review any necessary paperwork, and address any additional needs. Plan to obtain your Civil Marriage License at any Vermont Town Hall. Bring all sacramental certificates. Prepare yourselves spiritually by attending confession prior to your wedding day.

