



*Congratulations!*

## You have just become engaged, now what do you do?

- Contact and register with your parish priest at least six months to a year before the wedding to begin preparations and to set a date. This should be done before booking a venue for your reception.
- Choose a Marriage Preparation program that will help you discern more deeply your decision to marry and give you a more complete appreciation of what marriage means as a vocation and a way of life.
- Pray for one another as you embark on your life together.

**“Deepen your love...  
pray, prepare  
yourselves well.”**

*~ Pope Francis*

**Before meeting with your priest, you will need:**

*If one or both of you is Catholic, you will need a certificate of Baptism dated within six months of your wedding date. The certificate should have notations about the date and place of your First Communion and Confirmation (if you've been confirmed). If one of you is a baptized non-Catholic, a baptismal certificate alone is needed.*

*If this is a second marriage for either of you, additional documents will be needed such as a Decree of Nullity, indicating an annulment of the previous marriage, or a death certificate of the former spouse.*

**Contact:**

Mary-Jo McLaughlin  
Catholic Family Services  
860-848-2237, Ext 312  
[mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net)



**DIOCESE OF NORWICH:  
2025 MARRIAGE  
PREPARATION GUIDELINES**

Catholic Family Services  
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# DIOCESE OF NORWICH: 2025 MARRIAGE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

*Catholic Family Services Office*



**“Marriage is an  
intimate partnership  
of life and love.”**

*~ Gaudium et Spes*

**Marriage is a Sacrament in the Catholic Church.** Marriage preparation programs are designed to give couples a sound understanding of what it means to live a sacramental commitment. Through preparation programs, couples gain insight into themselves as individuals and as a couple.



**Pick one marriage preparation program to participate in as a couple:**

- Engaged Encounter
- Twogether in Love
- Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes
- Remarriage Classes
- Online Marriage Preparation Class

Each option includes an Introduction to Natural Family Planning, a requirement of the Diocese and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

**Engaged Encounter** ~ A weekend retreat that gives engaged couples the face-to-face chance to dialogue honestly and intensively about their prospective lives together and their role in the church and society.

Weekends range in cost between \$350-500 per couple depending on location in the Hartford, Worcester, or Boston area.

**Twogether in Love** ~ Offered in specific parishes, this program gives engaged couples an understanding of the Church's vision of marriage and the chance to share and discuss life issues with a mentor couple in their home for three or four one-two-hour sessions.

Call the Catholic Family Services office for availability.



**Online Marriage Preparation Class** ~ Covers the sacramental aspects of marriage and sexuality and expands the life-skills couples will need throughout their marriage. The course is taught online with the one-on-one mentoring of a married instructor couple. Ideal for couples with irregular schedules or separated by distance.

Cost is \$239 per couple available in English, Spanish and French. Registration and payment online at: [www.CatholicMarriagePrep.com](http://www.CatholicMarriagePrep.com)

**Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes** ~ Hosted by the Catholic Family Services office, this course gives engaged couples an understanding of the Church's vision of marriage and sexuality and provides a forum for couples to share and discuss challenging questions about their relationship. \* **(There will not be any classes July-August. If you are getting married in the fall, please register early for one of the spring classes.)**

Cost is \$75 per couple. Class dates for 2025:

- **January 18, (with Feb. 1 snow date)** from 8:30 A.M. – 4 P.M. at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- **March 1 (with March 8 snow date)** from **8:00 A.M. –3:30 P.M.** at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Coventry
- **April 5** from 8:30 A.M. – 4 P.M. at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- **June 21** from **8:00 A.M- 3:30 P.M.** at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Coventry
- **September 13** from 8:30 A.M. – 4 P.M. at Our Lady of Lourdes, Gales Ferry.
- **November 8**, from 8:30 A.M. – 4 P.M. at St Patrick Cathedral, Norwich.

**Remarriage Preparation Classes** ~ This course is for couples who have been widowed or received an annulment of a previous marriage and are **entering a second marriage.** \*

- **Contact our office for dates, times.**

\* **Space is limited, and registration is required. Register early to secure your spot by calling: 860-848-2237, Ext. 312. Or email [mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net](mailto:mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net).**

