

Getting Married in the Diocese of Evansville

Congratulations on your engagement! Your next step will be to prepare not only for your wedding day but especially for your marriage in the Catholic Church.

Preparation and instruction are essential to being married in the Catholic Church. This guide will help you plan for your marriage in the Diocese of Evansville.

STEP 1: Contact a Priest, or Deacon regarding the marriage preparation process in your parish after you are formally engaged and at least 6 months before your anticipated marriage. With your priest's or deacon's guidance, move to the appropriate STEPS 2-4.

STEP 2: Pre-Marriage Inventory. Diagnostic tools for assessment such as FOCCUS are provided by your priest or deacon and designed to help you learn more about yourself, your fiancé, and your relationship. Topics include family background, faith, finances, communication, problem solving, intimacy, and sexuality. It is important that you and your fiancé answer these questions honestly so that you both develop a better understanding of these important areas in your future marriage together.

Over the course of several meetings, you will discuss the results with each other and a trained facilitator, usually your priest or deacon.

STEP 3: Marriage Preparation Program. You and your fiancé will both attend an UNVEILED retreat through the Diocese **OR** go through a sponsor couple program at your parish (if available). This offers focused time for you and your fiancé to continue to examine your readiness for lifelong marriage together. The Diocese of Evansville offers 3 of these retreats per year at SARTO Retreat House. Some parishes have a Sponsor Couple ministry, where a married couple mentors an engaged couple for a period of several weeks, using either the *Joy Filled Marriage* or the *For Better For Ever* program.

STEP 4: Natural Family Planning (NFP). Attend a FREE, 45-minute session about Natural Family Planning. This course is called the Truth about NFP and is provided throughout the Diocese of Evansville with the assistance of the Holy Family Center for Life trained practitioners.

NOTE: The NFP introduction is a part of the UNVEILED retreat, so those attendees do not need to schedule a separate NFP class.

2023 UNVEILED Retreat Dates: There are 3 retreats per year. They are held at SARTO retreat house in Evansville.

- MARCH 17-18, 2023 (Two Day) \$225.00
- MAY 12-13, 2023 (Two Day) \$225.00
- SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (One Day) \$170.00

Don't Forget! Be sure to obtain your marriage license at least one month, but no more than 60 days, before the ceremony. If the marriage is to occur in another state, those laws may vary. Take the license to your priest or deacon, and be certain he returns that after the wedding.

NOTE: The prenuptial investigation packet is provided by the Office of the Tribunal to priests and deacons.

If the preparation occurs in the Diocese of Evansville, but the wedding will be in a different diocese, additional time is necessary to obtain any permission or dispensations and to forward the prenuptial investigation packet to the proper diocese.

If this is a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic, additional permission or dispensations are necessary and are handled by the Office of the Tribunal. If you or your proposed spouse has ever been previously married, proof of a declaration of nullity is required for marriage in the Church. This is a separate investigation to determine if one is free to be married in the Catholic Church and requires additional time.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM / LINKS
CURRENTLY USED IN THE DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

Diocese Marriage Preparation Webpage

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

Diocese Natural Family Planning Webpage

<https://www.evdio.org/natural-family-planning.html>

UNVEILED Retreat Online Registration

<https://www.osvhub.com/evdio/forms/2023-unveiled-retreat-registration>

Truth about NFP Registration

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bafad29a3f9c70-educational>

More Info about UNVEILED

<http://www.unveiledmarriage.com/home>

Holy Family Center for Life FB page

<https://www.facebook.com/HFCLfertilitycarecenter/>

Sponsor Couple (Parish) Marriage Prep. Programs

- Joy Filled Marriage
<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/joy-filled-marriage>
- For Better Forever
<https://marriagepreparation.com/>

Marriage Preparation Inventory

FOCCUS

<https://www.foccusinc.com/foccus-inventory.aspx>

Marriage Documents

Tribunal

<https://www.evdio.org/tribunal.html>

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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