Welcome to the Marriage Preparation Process for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Congratulations on your decision to marry in the Catholic Church. This invitation to participate in the preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage as a couple is an important step in building a life-long commitment to each other. This process will help you to continue to grow in your faith while bringing each other closer to God.

We hope that this preparation will give you a better understanding of the sacrament while fully respecting persons and beliefs of other religious traditions.

During preparation, we will provide resources and practical tools to help grow a strong and healthy marriage as you gain insight into yourselves as individuals and as a couple.

"Your wedding will last a day, but your marriage will last a lifetime."

Visit www.ForYourMarriage.org for some excellent information to help you grow your marriage, not only as newlyweds, but for a lifetime.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning (NFP), is a scientific, medically safe, Church approved method.

Your marriage is the most important relationship you will have. It needs nurturing, commitment, love, and a desire to work with each other to make it succeed for both of you. Those are the very qualities exercised when a couple uses Natural Family Planning. NFP will enhance your relationship through open, intimate communication, commitment to a common ideal, a deeper respect for each other, creative expression of your love, and a thorough understanding of your sexuality.

Effective because:

- husband and wife share the responsibility
- no health risks
- no cost
- works WITH your fertility not against it
- scientifically researched
- can improve marital communication
- 98-99% success rate.

**Highest success rate when learned through a qualified instructor.

Note: The diocese does not currently have its own training course for National Family Planning (NFP) but the Faith Formation, Family, and Youth Ministry Office is working on the development of a training for the diocese. We do have a few trainers that will work with you if you are interested in learning more about NFP. Contact our office, (814) 317-2646 for more information. Also, you can search on https://www.fertilitycare.org/find-a-center/

Office of Faith Formation, Family, and Youth Ministry

Marriage Preparation Schedule 2027



Helping engaged couples grow a strong, faith-filled marriage through Sacramental Preparation

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

YOUR PREPARATION OPTIONS

All fulfill the diocesan requirement

- **Engaged Couples Weekend**

Time and space away from the hectic pace. A very popular weekend. Dates and locations are available at engagedencounter.org

- **Marriage Preparation Series**

Led by married couples, priest or deacon.

- **Sponsor Couple**

Several sessions with a married couple from your parish. Flexible scheduling. Arranged through your parish, if offered.

- **For those separated by distance**

There are a couple options, working with a sponsor couple, marriage prep in your fiance's diocese, or an Engaged Encounter.

- **Online Marriage Preparation**

When couples are unable to attend any of the above programs, the diocese will allow for online participation. Contact the Faith Formation, Family, and Youth Ministry for more information (814)317-2646

***Remarriage Sponsor Couple**

Tailored to your unique situation when one or both persons have been married before

When to Attend Marriage Prep

Within the first 9 months before your wedding is preferred! You will get the most from this preparation by making this an early priority. There will be a lot of insight through dialogue with the married team couples and sharing their experiences. Information will also be shared on wedding ceremony planning.

2027 MARRIAGE PREPARATION SERIES

- Pre-registration is required. Early registration advised-some series fill up months in advance.
- Cancellation due to weather. For classes in all locations, call the Office of Faith Formation, Family, and Youth Ministry at 814-317-2643. A recorded message will list cancellations. If you cannot attend a session due to an unexpected situation, please call the Office of Faith Formation, Family, and Youth Ministry (814) 695-5579 for make-up instructions.
- COST: $80 per couple (includes all sessions in a series). *Register online by using the QR code provided. Payment for registrations by mail are also accepted after completing the form online and sending it with check made payable to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown with Marriage Prep in the memo on your check. No cash please!

ALTOONA
January 2 and 16
Snow date: January 24
Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM
Cathedral of the Blessed
Sacrament Basement
One Cathedral Square
Altoona, PA 16601

SOMERSET
March 20
Snow date: March 27
Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
St. Peter Parish Hall
433 W. Church Street
Somerset, PA 15501

STATE COLLEGE
June 10, 17, 24
Thursday, 7:00-9:30 PM
Our Lady of Victory
Activity Center
820 Westerly Parkway
State College, PA 16801

JOHNSTOWN
January 23 and February 6
Snow date: February 13
Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12:45 PM
Resurrection Oratory
800 Chestnut Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

ALTOONA
May 3, 10, and 17
Mondays 7:00-9:00 PM
St. John the Evangelist
Church Hall
309 Lotz Avenue, Lakemont
Altoona, PA 16602

BELLEFONTE
September 21, 28 and Oct. 5
Tuesdays 7:00-9:30 PM
St. John the Evangelist
Rectory Meeting Room
134 E. Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823

To register, use this QR Code



After registering, submit payment by sending a check or money order, (no cash) made payable to the **Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 2713 West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601**
Please write Marriage Preparation on the check and envelope.