

The Sacrament of Marriage

“Marriage, as instituted by God, is a faithful, exclusive, lifelong union of man and woman joined in an intimate community of life and love. They commit themselves completely to each other and to the wondrous responsibility of bringing children into the world and caring for them. The call to marriage is woven deeply into the human spirit.”

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Marriage is a life-long emotional investment. It pays to nurture your relationship, for a healthy marriage brings life to the entire family. Plus the family, with your marriage at its base, is the foundation of church and society.

Books (Can be borrowed from the Family Life Office)

A Daring Promise by Richard R. Gaillardetz

Why Marriages Succeed or Fail: How You Can Make Yours Last by Joh Gottman

Christian Marriage: The New Challenge by David M. Thomas. Explores contemporary concerns; and excellent book for both Catholic and interchurch couples.

Marriage: A Covenant of Seasons by Mary van Balen Holt. Every marriage has seasons of dreams and disappointments, fears and hopes. The author shows how each season affects a couple’s communication patterns, family dynamics, intimacy needs and prayer life.

Website

www.ForYourMarriage.org

Anniversary Liturgy Celebrations with Bishop Mark Bartchak

Held each fall for couples celebrating 1, 25, 40, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in the current calendar year. **Pre-registration, usually six weeks to a month before, is necessary through your own parish.** Watch for announcements in your parish bulletin or contact your parish. Couples may attend at either location.

Marriage Enrichment Opportunities

Weekends for Couples

During the weekend, couples explore the dynamics of marriage using the insights from family systems, theory, and Catholic spirituality. Presented by a team which includes married couples. Interfaith couples welcome. The weekends also serve as marriage preparation for engaged couples, so see the Engaged Couples Weekend schedule for dates and locations.

\$250/couple includes room with double bed, board, materials.

Pre-registration through the Family Life Office required.

Marriage Encounter

For couples who want to make a good marriage better! An intense weekend based on couple communication. Dates and more info at <http://central.pa.wwme.org>.

Newly Marrieds

Your first few years of marriage may go relatively smoothly or may be quite bumpy. Remember that the Church faith community cares deeply about you and is there to support you.

www.ForYourMarriage.org

“Foundations” Newsletter—Couples who have attended our Marriage Preparation Series or the Engaged Couples Weekend automatically receive this. Others can subscribe at: www.FoundationsNewsletter.net

“First Years & Forever” e-newsletter: www.familyministries.org/FirstYearsForever

Your first anniversary:

Come celebrate it with us at the diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebrations. Also celebrating will be couples observing their 25, 40, 5, 55, 60+ years of marriage. They need your presence and you might enjoy their example of fidelity. No matter which month you were married, if your first anniversary falls in this calendar year, you’re invited.

Pre-registration, usually six weeks to a month before, is necessary through your own parish. Watch for bulletin announcements in your parish bulletin or contact your pastor. Couples may attend at either location: the Cathedral in Altoona or in Johnstown.

Interfaith Marriage

The challenges are real for interfaith couples, but we are here to support you. Most important is that you keep a strong connection with God and with a particular faith community. Letting one’s religious practice slip hurts a marriage because you no longer are in touch with God whose strength, mercy, forgiveness, and boundless patience you need. For much more info on marrying a Protestant, Jew or Muslim, see www.ForYourMarriage.org.