



How is Diocesan Marriage Preparation Changing?

Explanatory Meetings on MS Teams

For clergy, staff, and volunteers
who assist in completing prenuptial files

Choose one meeting date:

Tuesday, June 27, 1-2pm (English)

Tuesday, June 27, 3-4pm (Spanish)

RSVP to life@rockforddiocese.org with your name, parish, parish city, and role in marriage preparation. We will email you a meeting link the week before the gathering. To best participate, you need an Internet browser, webcam, and microphone. You will, however, be able to participate with simply a telephone.

The meetings will be recorded and shared with those who request the recording link. Based on feedback, we may schedule another set of Teams meetings later in the year. So please let us know if you are interested in a second set of meetings.

We are also open to emails and phone calls with your questions. We can come to the parish as well to meet personally to walk through the changes.

Life and Family Evangelization Office
Diocese of Rockford
555 Colman Center Drive
Rockford, IL 61108
Phone: (815) 399-4300 ext. 377
Email: life@rockforddiocese.org



New Rockford Diocese Marriage Preparation Requirements

Explanation for Priests

In effect for preparation that begins July 1, 2023

New requirements do not change individual parish preparation style

Required: Two Certificates from Diocese

(1) Pre-Cana Certificate and (2) Natural Family Planning (NFP) Certificate

Those Preparing for Marriage in the Catholic Church – in English

Couples choose 1 for Pre-Cana Certificate:

- Overnight Retreat: Transformed in Love
- Online Video Series: SmartLoving Engaged
- Three-day, Two-Night Retreat: Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend (only for those couples who have previously had a wedding with each other that is not recognized by the Catholic Church 2 or more years ago)

Couples choose 1 for NFP Certificate:

- Half-day, In-person: NFP Seminar– *in development/will not be immediately available.*
- Online Video Series: SmartLoving Fertility
- Three-to-Six Months, In-person: Full course of NFP from certified instructor*

Those Preparing for Marriage in the Catholic Church – in Spanish

Couples choose 1 for Pre-Cana Certificate:

- Overnight Retreat: Transformados en el Amor
- Online Video Series: Preparacion Matrimonial Catolica
- Three-day, Two-Night Retreat: Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Spanish (only for those couples who have previously had a wedding with each other that is not recognized by the Catholic Church 2 or more years ago)

Couples choose 1 for NFP Certificate:

- Half-day, In-person: NFP Seminar
- Online Video Series: AprendePFN En Línea
- Three-to-Six Months, In-person: Full course of NFP from certified instructor*

For those who are preparing couples in unique situations that may not fit the above, please contact the LiFE Office as soon as possible to discuss the particulars of that couple's situation so a determination can be made as to what will be most beneficial to the couple.

Couples preparing for marriage are expected to complete both of the required courses. Priests and deacons should not request dispensations for couples from these courses except in unique situations which should be discussed in advance with the Chancery.

Cost for All Couples: \$190 per couple*

**Additional costs for full courses of NFP paid direct to providers*

Marriage Preparation Program Descriptions

Pre-Cana Courses

Online Pre-Cana Course: These are a series of videos for couples to view online together at their own pace. There are activities and discussion guides for them as well. Each publisher has worked out accountability to ensure that couples view the course in its entirety. The courses are available 24/7. The online courses are SmartLoving Engaged, published by SmartLoving, presented in English, and Preparacion Matrimonial Catolica, published by The Marriage Group, presented in Spanish.

Overnight Pre-Cana Retreat: The overnight retreat allows the couple to take a break from wedding day planning and their day-to-day lives. Retreats will be offered once a month, rotating each month between English and Spanish. No retreats will be offered in November, December, July, or August. The retreat curriculum, Transformed in Love / Transformados en el Amor, is published by the Archdiocese of Boston.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend (only for those couples who have previously had a wedding with each other that is not recognized by the Catholic Church 2 or more years ago): The overnight retreat will assist couples who have already had a wedding with each other to listen, share, and connect more deeply. The weekend is run by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter organization. Couples should be sure to initially register through the diocesan LiFE Office. They will then receive instructions on how to register with Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

NFP Courses

Online NFP Course: These are a series of videos for couples to view online together at their own pace. Each publisher has worked out accountability to ensure that couples view the course in its entirety. The courses are available 24/7. The online courses are SmartLoving Fertility, published by SmartLoving, presented in English, and AprendePFN En Línea, published by The Marriage Group, presented in Spanish.

In-person NFP Course: This is a half-day in-person seminar that will be offered once a month, rotating each month between English and Spanish. No seminars will be offered in December, July, or August.

Full Course of NFP from a Certified Instructor: The full course is between one couple and the NFP instructor, who is certified in one method of planning. The course usually takes three to six months, with some instructors offering follow-up. The cost is set by the instructor. Couples should be sure to initially register through the diocesan LiFE Office. They will then receive instructions on how to register with certified instructors. We have both English- and Spanish-speaking instructors.



Diocese of Rockford – Marriage Preparation

2023-2024 Course Calendar for Couples

as of May 2023

Preparation beginning through June 30, 2023: Choose one course. Cost \$150.

Preparation beginning on July 1, 2023, or later: Choose one course per section. Cost \$190

Couples, please register and select courses at: www.rockforddiocese.org/life/marriage-prep.

Credit card payment will be taken online to complete your registration.

1

Pre-Cana Courses

(Choose one)

- SmartLoving Engaged (English)** - Available online 24/7
- Preparacion Matrimonial Catolica (Spanish)** - Available online 24/7
- Overnight Pre-Cana Retreat** – Beginning 5pm Friday, and ending 6pm Saturday

| Transformed in Love Retreat - English | Transformados en el Amor - Spanish |
|--|---|
| September 15-16, 2023 Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Rd., Rockford, 61102 | October 21-22, 2023 St. Rita of Cascia-Aurora 750 Old Indian Trail, Aurora, IL 60506 <i>Note: Couples will not stay overnight at the retreat facility</i> |
| January 19-20, 2024 Nazareth Spirituality Center, 717 N. Batavia Ave., Batavia, 60510 | February 2-3, 2024 Nazareth Spirituality Center, 717 N. Batavia Ave., Batavia, 60510 |
| March 1-2, 2024 Nazareth Spirituality Center, 717 N. Batavia Ave., Batavia, 60510 | April 5-6, 2024 Nazareth Spirituality Center, 717 N. Batavia Ave., Batavia, 60510 |
| May 24-25, 2024 Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Rd., Rockford, 61102 | June 14-15, 2024 Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Rd., Rockford, 61102 |
| August 2-3, 2024 Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Rd., Rockford, 61102 | September 27-28, 2024 Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Rd., Rockford, 61102 |
| October 4-5, 2024 Bishop Lane Retreat Center, 7708 E. McGregor Rd., Rockford, 61102 | November 2024 Location to be announced |

Pre-Cana Courses – Couples who have had a wedding with each other not recognized by the Catholic Church 2 or more years ago

(Choose one)

- Any of the Pre-Cana Courses listed on the previous page
- Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend (English or Spanish)** – Register first at www.rockforddiocese.org/life/marriage-prep. More information at alifetimeoflove.org.

2

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Courses

(Choose one)

- SmartLoving Fertility (English)** - Available online 24/7
- AprendePFN En Línea (Spanish)** - Available online 24/7
- Full Course of NFP from a Certified Instructor in English or Spanish** – Register first at www.rockforddiocese.org/life/marriage-prep. Some instructors may require an additional fee.
- In-person Gift of Self NFP Seminar**

| Gift of Self NFP - English | Gift of Self NFP - Spanish |
|--|--|
| <i>If a course is needed before January 2024, please choose the online option or the full course option.</i> | October 14, 2023 8:30am to 12:30pm Christ the Teacher Church, Newman Catholic Student Center, 512 Normal Rd., DeKalb, 60115 |
| January 13, 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm Holy Family 4401 Highcrest Rd., Rockford, 61107 | February 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm Location to be announced |
| March 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm Location to be announced | April 20, 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm St. Edward 3004 Eleventh St., Rockford 61109 |
| May 18, 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm St. Patrick 6N491 Crane Rd., St. Charles, 60175 | June 29, 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm St. Patrick 6N491 Crane Rd., St. Charles, 60175 |
| September 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm Location to be announced | October 2024 8:30am to 12:30pm Location to be announced |

