

From: Our Lady of Lourdes Marriage Prep Coordinators John & Joanne Raymond

Our parish is looking for couples who may be willing to help us with a marriage preparation designed to really foster Christ centered marriages and get engaged couples involved in the parish community which statistically greatly lowers their chance of a marriage ending in divorce. It is a virtue based, mentor led program. The engaged couple selects a mentor couple that has been married at least 5 years and is known to actively practice the faith. This could be any couple they already know in the parish. However, if they cannot find a mentoring couple we would like to have them choose a couple from an album of parish mentoring couples.

A bit about the program: First, you don't have to be perfect! ¼ of married couples today do not even make it 5 years – you've already beat the odds. Engaged couples need help from a Sacramentally married couple whom they can walk along with through the trials that will occur both before and after marriage.

There are 6 meetings between you and the engaged couple; preferably at your home but can be a remote meeting with Zoom, Skype, etc. All materials are provided and we as our parish Marriage Prep Coordinator couple will meet with both you and the engaged couple to go over the materials. Meetings last between 1 hour and 1 hour and 30 minutes. Below is a brief breakdown of topics where you will watch a short video and then follow up with discussion questions.

1st Meeting = Courage and Communication

2nd Meeting = Forgiveness and Family

3rd Meeting = Patience, Friendship, and Leisure

4th Meeting = Charity, Purity, and Living the Vows (establishing the habit of regular confession is covered)

5th Meeting = Sacrifice and Theology of Matrimony *see below

6th Meeting = Wisdom and Moderation, Providing for Family Needs

*Mentor couples are not expected to be theology experts. As part of the marriage prep process each engaged couple makes a diocese Day of Reflection on Sacramental Marriage. This takes place before the 5th meeting. At the 5th Meeting Father or a Deacon joins both couples for a dinner at which time he answers any questions they may have on what they have learned.

If through prayer you decide that the Lord may be calling you to share your faith and accompany a couple on their journey towards matrimony please fill out the attached mentor couple form and return it to the parish office along with a family picture. You can also take a smart phone picture of the form and photo and email it to us the Marriage Prep Coordinators at johnraymond6701@comcast.net If you prefer a mentor couple form as a Word document that you can fill out email us with the request at the above email address.

For more information on this mentoring program go here: <https://witnessstolove.org/couples/witness-to-love-mentor-couples/>