

Beginning a marriage is perhaps the most important step that people take in their lives; it is, however, an event for which life often prepares us poorly. While love is the foundation of marriage, love alone cannot be our only preparation for marriage, for married life may be difficult and may feel “less-than-loving” at times. The Church cares deeply for couples entering the Sacrament of Marriage and, thus, Corpus Christi offers Pre-Cana Sessions as part of the preparation for your life together. This marriage preparation process will assist you in discovering within your relationship those significant areas of strength and uniqueness upon which to build a lasting, loving marriage.

In view of the many stresses that affect marriage in today’s society, the Catholic Church wants to help engaged couples think and communicate more fully about areas of married life which may or may not have been discussed before. Marriage is a sacrament and, in the Catholic Church, all sacraments (with the exception of the Anointing of the Sick) require some form of preparation on the part of the adult, parent, or child. The Archdiocese of Baltimore requires all couples to participate in a marriage preparation process before receiving the Sacrament of Marriage. Corpus Christi Church offers its own Pre-Cana Sessions for couples who would like to prepare for marriage through a process that makes use of both individual and group dynamics. The program consists of two 4-hour sessions held over the course of consecutive Sundays. Topics covered in the sessions include communication, decision-making, intimacy/sexuality, and spirituality. Married couples and parish pastoral leaders conduct sessions designed, not so much to “teach” participants how to be married, but to raise issues of importance for their consideration and reflection.

Participants are asked to listen to presentations made to the whole group and then to separate into couples to consider and discuss issues and questions raised by the program’s workbook and presentation. Couples are invited to speak with the program’s leaders or their priest or deacon about any issues they believe need further consideration.

Registration for Corpus Christi’s Pre-Cana Sessions is limited to couples who have already scheduled their wedding at Corpus Christi. Registered parishioners of Corpus Christi, who planned to be married elsewhere, may also participate in the program. There is a \$100 fee for the program.

For more information, please call Fr. Marty Demek at the rectory (410-523-4161) or email him at MDemek@archbalt.org

*So faith, hope, love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13