

Archdiocese of Boston ~ Marriage Ministries

Marriage Ministries
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Office: 617-746-5801

www.BostonCatholic.org/MarriageMinistries

What Is Marriage Preparation?

In the Archdiocese of Boston, Marriage Preparation is broken into three phases.

Phase I: Introductory sessions (with the priest, deacon and/or certified pastoral associate)

The objectives of this phase are:

- to enhance or initiate your relationship with the Church,
- to explain and invite you to reflect on and further appropriate the Church's understanding of marriage,
- to establish your freedom to marry,
- to overview the whole preparation process, and to invite you to live your married lives in communion with the Church.

Phase II: Engaged Couple Workshops

These Workshops are what are publicized on the "[Schedule of Marriage Preparation Programs—also known as 'Pre-Cana' page](#)."

Programs meet a minimum of two times. One-day programs do not meet the Archdiocesan Guidelines. For each listing you will find the location first and then the meeting times for that location. In order to attend the program and receive a certificate of completion you must be able to attend all of the dates and times listed below the location.

The objectives are:

- to allow you to benefit from the experience and Christian witness of the team couples who are living the vocation of marriage,
- to present to you some of the basic elements in the marital relationship: self-knowledge, communication, marital adjustments, spirituality of marriage and family life, the Church's teaching on family planning, and finances, and
- to assist you in your growing appreciation of marriage as more than a relationship of mutual attraction.

Phase III: Follow up sessions (with the Minister)

This is an opportunity for you...

- to reflect on your experience of the Workshops,
- to respond to any question or difficulties raised by the Workshop experience,
- to be assisted in your ongoing appropriation of the Church's understanding of marriage,
- to plan (in final detail) the Wedding Mass or Ceremony,
- to be encouraged in your regular practice of your faith, and
- to ensure that all of the canonical and civil requirements for marriage are completed.

Espousal Retreat House

& Conference Center

Espousal Retreat House
554 Lexington Street
Waltham, MA 02452
ph: 781-209-3120
fax: 781-893-0291

www.espousal.org/marriage_prep

Marriage Preparation

Our Marriage Preparation program is offered twelve to fourteen weekends throughout the year at the Retreat Center in Waltham, MA. The program runs from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm Saturday and 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Sunday. Attendance on both days is required. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday. The cost of the program is \$140/per couple and lunch is provided on Sunday. An overnight stay is **not** required; however, accommodations can be provided if requested for an additional \$20/per person, which can be paid upon arrival. Two married couples and a priest form the team. Brief presentations are given; handouts are completed by each individual privately; the engaged couple is then given time to share their responses and to discuss with each other. Included in the program are group discussions, an engagement blessing, lunch on Sunday, and Mass. At the conclusion of Mass, certificates are presented to certify that the couple has completed the Marriage Preparation Program.

If you would like to sign up for the Marriage Preparation at the Espousal Retreat Center, please review the dates below and click on the link provided to fill out the registration form. If you have any questions, please email us at espousalmarriageprep@gmail.com.

Marriage Preparation Dates **2015**

**Jan 3-4, Feb 7-8, Mar 7-8,
Mar 28-29, April 11-12, May 2-3,
May 30-31, June 6-7, July 11-12,
Aug 1-2, Sept 12-13, Oct 3-4
Nov 7-8, Dec 5-6**

**Check availability with the Retreat Center*

SAINT BASILS PRE CANA PROGRAM INFORMATION

30 East Street
Methuen, MA 01844
978-683-2959 – phone
978-794-3379 – fax

www.saintbasils.org/about/teams/

Pre Cana

Saint Basil Pre Cana has been ministering to engaged couples in and around the Arch Diocese of Boston for over 25 years. We have an excellent, thought provoking, interactive marriage preparation program. There are eight (8) Friday – Saturday sessions that run from September through June. The program is fast paced, informative and enjoyable. Couples find it to be an opportunity to cover some important subjects regarding things to expect in their future together. Our goal is to help in any way we can to prepare you for marriage in the Catholic Church. Our team of married couples presents a wide variety of topics through personal sharing and open discussion.

Sessions start on Friday evening – 7:00 – 9:30 PM Concluding on Saturday – 9:00 – 4:30 PM Refreshments & snacks on Friday Night-Saturday Morning coffee & donuts Hot lunch is included on Saturday A couples tuition fee is \$120. This is not an overnight.

2014-2015 Dates:

January 23-24, 2015

February 13-14, 2015

April 17-18, 2015

May 8-9, 2015

June 12-13, 2015