

PROMISES TO KEEP

ST. JOSEPH & IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

When you decided to marry, you decided to commit formally to one another in the presence of God, your families, and your friends. You have expectations that your love, your hopes, your dreams, your union will be lasting and permanent. Your hope is that your marriage will be filled with joy, laughter, fulfillment, and blessings.

The Parish Marriage Preparation Program does not offer any guarantees. However, it is statistically true that couples who have participated in some form of marriage preparation course are more likely to succeed. The goals of the parish's Preparation Program are to affirm the skills, the knowledge, the wisdom, and the love that each person and each couple bring to their relationship. It is the aim of the Program to provide suggestions and skills to you as a couple that will affirm and enrich your relationship. The Program offers you, as individual persons and as a couple, opportunities to grow and to be secure in your decision to marry. The married couples and coordinator who lead and facilitate the Program have had a positive experience of married life, and want to share their and your wisdom mutually. We have been blessed!

The Parish also offers a Marriage Preparation Program for couples who are remarrying or formalizing their relationship (common law, civil marriage). This is usually done on a one-on-one basis as a couple with the Program Coordinator.

The Program is offered in an atmosphere of mutual respect, non-judgment, and friendship. The coordinator asks the participants to come to the Program with an open mind, heart, and spirit. The feedback that we get from most of the couples who have participated in the Program is that they felt they benefited from it and that it was a worthwhile experience. The Program is offered on a schedule that is set with the couple and the coordinator. Times and dates are to be arranged with the couple and the coordinator.

Please consult the website at http://www.stratfordcatholic.com/Preparing_for_the_Sacraments/ for course dates and contact information. Each course takes place over a weekend.

Agenda

Friday: 6:45 pm– 9:15 pm

Introductions and Getting to Know One Another
Symbols of Relationships
Marriage Expectations
the Wedding Ceremony

Saturday: 9:30 am

Gathering & Opening Experience
Sacramental Marriage
Family of Origin (What we bring to our
marriage from our background)

Saturday (cont'd)

Communication and Practice Skills
Couple Time to complete exercises

12:30 - Lunch provided

12:45 - Conflict Resolution Role Playing
Ways of Resolving Conflict
Financial Management
Values, Skills, Solutions

4pm. - Closing & Wrap up

Sunday: 11:30am

Sacramental Marriage & Symbols of our Relationship
Intimacy & Sexuality
Building Intimacy

12:30 - Lunch provided

1:15 – Children & parenting

"The Glue" that keeps us together--love

Letters & Evaluation

Closing Ceremony & Certificates

CLERGY CONTACT FOR WEDDINGS: Fr. Dick Bester (519-271-6722, ext. 23) or Fr. David Butler (519-271-6722, ext. 24). Please see the contact form on our website (http://www.stratfordcatholic.com/Contact_Us/) for email contact.

- Please note: The Program provides lunches and snacks, and there are breaks during the day.
- The Program fee is \$200.00 per couple and is payable when you take the Program. The fee covers all meals, snacks and materials used in the Program.
- All Programs take place at **Immaculate Conception Hall, 50 Well Street, Stratford, ON**. The parking lot is accessed off Bay St.
- Please complete the registration form (below) as quickly as possible. It may be faxed to the parish office at 519-880-3686, or mailed to Mike Haase, 13 Hesson Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 6E9, and /or to St. Joseph's & Immaculate Conception Parish Office, 96 Huron St., Stratford, ON, N5A 5S6. You may also scan and email the form to <mhaase@dol.ca>.

Mike Haase

Marriage Preparation Coordinator

Phone: 519-273-9392

email: mhaase@dol.ca

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

ALL INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

(Please type or print)

First person

Name: _____

Address & Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Age & date of birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Religious affiliation: _____

Second person

Name: _____

Address & postal code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Age & date of birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Religious affiliation: _____

Date & place of marriage: _____

To allow us to meet your needs for this Marriage Preparation Program as well as we can, we ask that you please complete the following and return with your registration form.

Please check the statement that best describes you as a couple:

_____ We are engaged; we are not living together, and have never been married before.

_____ We are engaged; we are living together, and have been for _____ (how long?).

_____ We are engaged and have been civilly married.

_____ We are engaged and have been previously married to other people.

_____ We are engaged, are living together, and have _____ children.

Please feel free to provide any other information that you feel would benefit you as a couple during the Marriage Preparation Program.

A note from Mike Haase:

I've asked for your email address or mailing addresses because, as part of the Program, we offer a survey formulated by Prepare Enrich. The survey can be done online before you attend the course. Based on your responses, the survey identifies those areas in your relationship that are strengths, and those that need some work and attention. Please read the brochure that will come with your information package and survey registration forms.

Many thanks for completing this form! **BE ASSURED THAT ALL INFORMATION IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

Looking forward to meeting you,

Sincerely,

Mike Haase