

# Life Skills Course

YOUR THREE OPTIONS

## WITNESS TO LOVE:

### Parish Mentor Couple

Ask your pastor if Witness to Love is available in your parish! Choose a mentor couple in your parish, or be matched with a couple your pastor suggests. You and your mentors will meet in person, enriching each other's relationship during this journey. Cost \$95

## WITNESS TO LOVE:

### Virtual Path

Ask your pastor if this path is available for your preparation. This path prepares couples who are separated by distance. You will both participate in a series of virtual videos that will enhance your relationship. There will be follow up discussions with the Marriage Preparation Coordinator. Cost \$195

## CATHOLICMARRIAGEPREP.COM:

### Online Pre-Cana

This online Pre-Cana is ideal for couples with irregular schedules or those separated by distance during their engagement. You will be matched with a married couple to work with online. Registration instructions at [vermontcatholic.org/mp](http://vermontcatholic.org/mp). Cost \$194

## Steps to Take

Allow 6-12 months to complete

### **Step 1:** Make an appointment

Schedule an appointment with your priest or deacon before you set a wedding date. Complete initial paperwork.

### **Step 2:** Marriage Prep Life Skills Course

Choose one of these three approved courses

- Witness to Love-Parish Mentor Couple
- Online Pre-Cana
- Witness to love Virtual Path with Marriage Preparation Coordinator.

### **Step 3:** Natural Family Planning Intro.

Complete instruction through online course or Vermont practitioner.

### **Step 4:** Diocesan Marriage Prep Retreat

**Step 5:** Sacramental and Liturgical Prep Complete final paperwork. Bring all sacramental certificates, certificates from Life Skills Course, NFP Course and Diocesan Retreat.

- Obtain your Civil Marriage License in the town where you reside, The license is valid for sixty days.

## CONTACT US

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# Marriage Preparation

VERMONT



## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP



My dear friends in Christ:

Congratulations and blessings upon your engagement to each other and your decision to soon celebrate the Rite of Marriage so as to live as husband and wife in a life-long covenant of love. As you prepare for this commitment, I encourage you to strengthen the faith and love you have for each other by embracing the blessings available within the Catholic faith.

Pray with and for one another daily, praise God in the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass and seek His forgiveness and mercy in Reconciliation. Take every opportunity before your wedding to lay a solid foundation for a blessed marriage by strengthening your communication and trust in each other. I pray that your preparation for marriage provides you with the tools necessary to grow in a love that is free, faithful, fruitful and forever.

Remember that "marital love is inseparable from marriage itself, in which fragile and limited human love meets divine love, which is always faithful and merciful." - Pope Francis

+John J. McDermott  
Bishop of Burlington

## Frequently Asked Questions

- *Why do we have to wait 6-12 months to marry?*

This preparation time allows couples the adequate time to meet with the priest or deacon, complete the pre-marriage inventory and marriage preparation programs so as to make an informed decision on the readiness for marriage.

If there are special circumstances that might affect the marriage, any dispensations or documentation that is needed, having this time to obtain the information helps to alleviate added stress.

- *What if we are living out of state but want to be married in Vermont?*

Couples who are planning a "destination wedding" in Vermont, must first contact their pastor in the state where they reside. Couples will complete the marriage preparation in that diocese.

Couples must also contact the Vermont pastor at the time they begin meeting with the pastor preparing them.

Please allow 6 months to coordinate with your pastors and the venue where you plan to marry.

- *Why do we have to take Natural Family Planning?*

The Catholic faith believes in the responsible, unconditional, and sacrificial love in the sexual union of all married couples. NFP presents the couple with the opportunity to better understand their fertility, while fostering respect and communication in the married relationship.

- *What if one of us isn't Catholic?*

Marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics are not prohibited, but you should both speak to your pastor as soon as possible. He will guide you in your preparation.

- *Are there any resources to help us with our planning?*

1. Your pastor is a great person to ask
2. "Invited: the Ultimate Catholic Wedding Planner" by Stephen Calis
3. Visiting our website:  
[vermontcatholic.org/marriage-prep/](https://vermontcatholic.org/marriage-prep/)
4. USCCB recommended video: "Saying I Do: What happens at a Catholic Wedding"  
<https://youtu.be/3uAHwtBRg5c>

