

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Since marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament and a lifetime commitment, one of the ways we value and honor it is by taking time to help couples prepare. All Cathedral parishioners begin this process by completing a comprehensive pre-marriage inventory or questionnaire (FOCCUS), followed by an interview with a member of the marriage preparation team. This takes place before the wedding date is finalized on the cathedral calendar (if you are being married here). Afterwards, couples are required to participate in a marriage preparation program, a number of which are approved by the Cathedral. Couples who are not cathedral parishioners deal directly in this matter with the priest or deacon who will officiate at their wedding.

Below is a list of marriage preparation programs available to couples being married at St. James Cathedral. For Cathedral parishioners, Evenings for the Engaged is *strongly* recommended.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED PROGRAM. This is a parish-based program conducted by Helen Oesterle, Director of Religious Education. Father Ryan participates in it, as do some trained married couples from the parish. It consists of five two-hour sessions held on Sunday evenings at the parish. The program followed is one developed by the Marriage Encounter movement and involves a presentation, individual reflection, group sharing, and a modest amount of homework. The group is limited, so participation is on a space-available basis. To inquire about participation in this program, please call Linda Carr at 206-622-3559.

SEATTLE CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKEND. Friday night to Sunday afternoon. Held at Camp Brotherhood (near Mount Vernon), Palisades (Federal Way), and Center for Renewal (Issaquah). Cost is \$225+ per couple. This includes overnight facilities, food and materials. Presented by two couples and a priest. Registration forms are available at St. James Cathedral parish office. You can also call 206-618-1130 to register, or seattlecee@hotmail.com.

PRE-MARRIAGE SEMINAR AT SAMARITAN CENTER OF PUGET SOUND Four week series with a in a small group setting for an interactive experience, structured to highlight not only learning about marriage, but also to provide opportunities for couples to engage in conversation about their life together. Offered on Tuesday evenings in Seattle or Bellevue. For more information call 206-527-2273 x337 or go to www.samaritanps.org

MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSIONS WITH KATHY HERBER. There are three one-hour sessions with each couple. Extensive profile questionnaire used for personal evaluation of strengths and possible areas of concern. Written summary to clergy. Gift to each couple is one free hour to be used at any time after the wedding. The phone number is 206-501-5938.