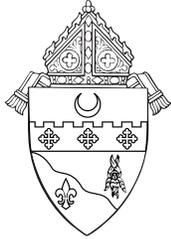


Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend

# *Marriage Preparation Program*



## **2020 Dates**

### ***Conferences for Engaged Couples***

***February 8 (SB) • March 7 (FW)***

***April 18 (SB) • May 23 (FW)***

***June 27 (SB) • September 26 (FW)***

Congratulations on your engagement! The vocation of married love is a beautiful and challenging one that deserves special preparation. Your marriage will not only transform your own futures, but it will also have lasting effects on many others and on succeeding generations. As the great St. John Paul II would often say, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

### ***Diocesan Guidelines***

The initial process begins at the parish and involves paperwork, such as producing affidavits of freedom to marry from parents or others close to the couple as well as baptismal certificates issued within the last six months. An engaged couple must also complete a questionnaire, often called a premarital inventory, which helps a priest or pastoral minister to identify areas of disagreement that require further discussion.

Engaged couples who are not participating in the new *Two by Two* marriage preparation program are expected to attend the daylong ***Conference for Engaged Couples***, which in many parishes will be followed by one or more sessions with a priest, pastoral minister or mentor couple.

### ***Conferences for Engaged Couples***

The diocesan conferences for engaged couples are daylong Saturday programs that feature dynamic presentations designed to provide a firm foundation for your future life together. The topics covered include the three essential characteristics of married love; communication and intimacy in marriage; an introduction to Pope St. John Paul II’s theology of the body; sex, as the “body language” of married love; the meaning of responsible parenthood and an introductory video on natural family planning; building a strong partnership as spouses, the spirituality of Christian marriage; and, the Christian family as the “church of the home.” Folders with resources are also provided to facilitate ongoing discussion by the couple. While the conference is particularly geared to Catholic engaged couples, all engaged couples are welcome.

Conferences for Engaged Couples (in English) will take place six times in 2020 and will run from 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 AM. The fee for the day, including breakfast and materials, is \$90 per couple. The conferences take place at the Grand Wayne in Fort Wayne (***FW***) and at the Century Center in South Bend (***SB***).

**Please register ONLINE at least two weeks in advance at [www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-preparation](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/marriage-preparation).** You will receive a confirmation email upon registration.

Refunds for cancellations will be made up to one week before the date of the program. For more information, you may call (574) 234-0687.

May God bless you as you prepare together for a lifetime of married love!

***Lisa Everett***

Director for Marriage & Family Ministry