

Seminar Dates:

October 25, 2025

Location: Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary
806 E. Broadway Bismarck, ND

March 21, 2026

Location: Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary
806 E. Broadway Bismarck, ND

October 24, 2026

Location: Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary
806 E. Broadway Bismarck, ND

Time:

8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

*Times are subject to change, precise times will be included in confirmation email.

♥ Pre-registration is required at bismarckdiocese.com/secondmarriage. A fee of \$150 per couple is due at that time.

♥ An email will be sent confirming your seminar date and providing important information.

♥ The seminar consists of activities, presentations, group discussions and couple exercises.

♥ There will be an opportunity for reconciliation and the day concludes with Mass.

♥ To receive the certificate of completion, you must attend the entirety of the seminar. If you anticipate any conflicts, please select a different date.



2025-2026

Preparing the Way for the
Sacrament of Marriage

Second Marriage Seminar

"The very preparation for Christian marriage is itself a journey of faith. It is a special opportunity for the engaged to rediscover and deepen the faith received in baptism and nourished by their Christian upbringing. In this way, they come to recognize and freely accept their vocation to follow Christ and to serve the Kingdom of God in the married state."

- Pope John Paul II

"The Role of the Christian Family
in the Modern World"



Bismarck Diocese

Office of Family Ministry

bismarckdiocese.com/secondmarriage

Who is the Second Marriage Seminar for?

The Second Marriage Seminar is for engaged couples if one or both of the parties are entering into a second marriage after the death of a spouse(s) or an annulment(s).

We encourage couples to attend this seminar early on in their engagement and marriage preparation process. It provides an opportunity for couples to examine their relationship more in depth and look more specifically at:

- ♥ Sacramental love
- ♥ Intimacy and affection
- ♥ Communication
- ♥ Closure of the first marriage
- ♥ Forgiveness and reconciliation
- ♥ Blending families and step-parenting
- ♥ Family spirituality

Congratulations on your engagement!

Sacrament of Marriage Preparation Checklist:

Nine or more months prior to wedding:

- ☐ Before contacting a parish, if either party (Catholic non-Catholic) has been previously married, sacramentally or civilly, and the union has not been dissolved through death or received a Document of Freedom to Marry, contact the Tribunal Office at the Bismarck Diocese, 701-204-7203.
- ☐ If extra counseling is required by the Tribunal as part of your annulment, we ask that you start that as soon as possible.

- ☐ Make an appointment with your parish priest or deacon nine months or more prior to desired wedding date. At this appointment, you will review the parish and diocesan policies for entering into the sacrament of marriage, including any fees to the parish.

Six to nine months prior to wedding:

- ☐ Sign up for and attend a Bismarck Diocese Second Marriage Seminar as far out from your wedding date as possible, to best utilize the rich resources of the weekend in your engagement and relationship.
- ☐ Approximately six months prior to your wedding date, no later than four months, attend a full course (three months to complete) of the Natural Family Planning method of your choice. See bismarckdiocese.com/nfp for more information.

Timing per parish requirement:

- ☐ Take a pre-marital inventory (done with parish priest, deacon or sponsor couple), followed by meetings (approximately four meetings) with the priest/deacon/sponsor couple to discuss the results of the inventory.
- ☐ Meet with parish priest or deacon to complete the necessary pre-nuptial questionnaire.
- ☐ Supply the priest or deacon with a current (issued within nine months) copy of your baptismal certificate.
- ☐ Meet with the priest, deacon or parish staff to discuss details of the wedding celebration, including scripture readings, petitions and music.