

Preparation for the sacrament of matrimony helps guide you to faithfully live out your **vocation** of marriage. The Bismarck Diocese has established these requirements to support you as you grow together in **holiness** and begin your journey in married life.

marriage prep to-do list

- ☐ complete interviews and necessary pre-nuptial forms with priest.
- ☐ complete pre-marriage inventory and necessary follow-ups with priest or sponsor couple.
- ☐ complete a three-month course in a Natural Family Planning method taught by an instructor from the diocese-approved list.
- ☐ attend a Bismarck Diocese second marriage seminar.

It is required that the above be completed **four to six weeks** prior to the wedding. Any exceptions must be discussed with priest.



Additional resources for your engagement and marriage at:

bismarckdiocese.com/familyministry

*Now we must help each other to
reach heaven!*

- Blessed Charles of Austria, to
Servant of God Zita of Austria
after their betrothal ceremony.



Bismarck Diocese
Office of Family Ministry and
Respect Life

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PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

2026-2027



SECOND MARRIAGE SEMINAR



Bismarck Diocese
Office of Family Ministry

PREPARATION TIMELINE

Prior to beginning any marriage prep, note that if a previous attempt at marriage has not been dissolved through death or a declaration of nullity, you must contact the Bismarck Diocese Tribunal Office at 701-204-7203.

NINE MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING DATE

Contact your parish.

Register for Natural Family Planning.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR NFP

- ◆ Visit bismarckdiocese.com/nfp
- ◆ Research each method by clicking on "learn more."
- ◆ Prayerfully choose the method that best supports your marriage, along with a second choice.
- ◆ Follow the instructions to register for a course in your selected method.
- ◆ If no classes are available for your preferred method, proceed with your second choice.

Register for second marriage seminar.

You are encouraged to attend the seminar early in your engagement. This time of formation offers a space to grow in love, faith and understanding as you explore:

- Sacramental love, intimacy and affection
- Communication
- Closure of the first marriage
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Blending families and step-parenting

2026-2027 SECOND MARRIAGE SEMINAR DATES

October 24, 2026

March 13, 2027

October 23, 2027

- Located at Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary 806 E. Broadway Ave, Bismarck.
- Registration is required at bismarckdiocese.com/secondmarriage or scan:



- A fee of \$150 is due at time of registration.
- Seminar details will be emailed to you upon registration.
- The day will include adoration, reconciliation and will conclude with Mass.

THREE TO NINE MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING DATE

Attend second marriage seminar.

Attend Natural Family Planning.

TIMING BASED ON PARISH GUIDELINES

Completion of pre-nuptial forms.

Complete pre-marital inventory.

Turn in certificates:

- Current copy of both parties' baptismal certificates
- NFP completion certificate
- Second marriage seminar certificate of attendance

Plan the wedding ceremony.



On your wedding day,
your vows declare that your love is
FREE, TOTAL, FAITHFUL and FRUITFUL.

FREE: Freely chosen without external pressure or manipulation.

TOTAL: Offering yourself completely and generously to your spouse.

FAITHFUL: Committed exclusively to one another for your entire lifetime.

FRUITFUL: Openness to life by embracing God's will in your marriage.

