

# Marriage Prep Program Option 1

## CINCINNATI-COVINGTON CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

The weekend retreat offered by the Cincinnati-Covington Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) ministry offers couples a unique opportunity to look at their commitment to each other in a deeper way as they prepare for marriage. Away from the pressure and distractions of the outside world, couples are given 30 plus hours to honestly and intensively dialogue about their prospective lives together. Two married couples and a priest or deacon (if available) make up the presenting team. Presenting couples share brief stories about their marriages and the impact the sacrament of matrimony has had on their lives. The presenting team also offers couples ideas on how to continue to love each other, even amid the pressures of the world. The engaged couples should anticipate discussing each other's strengths and weaknesses, desires, and ambitions, as well as their attitudes about money, sex, children, family, and the role of the church and society in their future marriages. Finally, couples can go to confession and attend mass as a group on Sunday. Most people spend huge amounts of money and many months planning for their wedding. CEE is about preparing for what most hope will last 50 or 60 years — your marriage. **“A wedding is a day; a marriage is a lifetime.”**

Location:

Holy Spirit Center

5440 Moeller Ave

Cincinnati, Ohio 45212

To register, visit <https://cincinnati-covington.engagedencounter.com/>

For more information: e-mail the Cincinnati-Covington CEE Local Community at [Cincinnati-Covington@engagedencounter.com](mailto:Cincinnati-Covington@engagedencounter.com) or call Ashley Altenau at (513) 479-1700.

CEE hosts five weekends per year and has 14 team couples along with priests and deacons that volunteer their time to share the gift of marriage with engaged couples. They currently have two beautiful and Spirit-filled retreat centers – Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, Cincinnati, and Bergamo Retreat Center at 4400 Shakertown Rd., Beavercreek, OH 45430.

Overnight weekends begin Saturday promptly at 8:00 a.m. and end on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. While overnight weekends are preferable, there are in-parish weekends (no overnight stay) that begin Saturday promptly at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. They return Sunday, 8:15 a.m. and end by 3 p.m.

**Financial assistance is available!** Past participants have generously donated to help ensure that the weekend is available for all couples. Visit <https://cincinnati-covington.engagedencounter.com/reservations/>

# Marriage Prep Program Option 2

## **LIVING MARRIAGE AS A SACRAMENT**

Living Marriage as Sacrament (LMAS) is a Catholic program designed specifically for the Diocese of Covington. Over 3500 couples have been blessed by this program over the last 30 years! The program consists of 6 hours each day on two consecutive Saturdays (12 hours total) and is held at St. Barbara Church, Erlanger. Participation is limited to 25 couples per session.

You and your fiancé will hear real-world experiences and stories from team member presentations. You will also spend time in private conversations and small group discussions. The focus is on your relationship and the beauty and importance of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

What are the unspoken (and often subconscious) expectations, attitudes and perspectives you bring into your marriage? How can you communicate your thoughts and feelings with your spouse about difficult topics like finances, free time, traditions and family expectations? What is the plan God desires for your marriage and how does your sacrament impact the world? We will give you some practical tools — how to fight fairly and how to guard against the pressures you'll inevitably face — as well as some deeper thoughts about the beauty, sacredness and intimacy of marriage.

Our desire is that you come away with a better understanding of this beautiful sacrament and knowledge to help you build a loving marriage that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful — and rooted in Christ.

The classes are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on two consecutive Saturdays (must attend both weeks). The cost is \$125 per couple.

Please click on registration to see the available dates. Registrations are limited and fill up quickly, so sign up early! Dates for the upcoming year will be posted in late summer/early fall.

For more information or to register for Living Marriage as Sacrament, visit <https://marriagedoc.org/>

For any questions, contact [register@marriagedoc.org](mailto:register@marriagedoc.org)

Location:

St. Barbara Church  
4042 Turkeyfoot Road  
Erlanger, KY 41018

## Note for Marriage Prep Programs:

- **There are certain situations in which the Church believes engaged couples could benefit from more intensive preparation. These include pre-marital pregnancy and extreme youth (one or both partners aged 19 or under). In such cases contact your pastor or Catholic Charities (859-581-8974) for individualized pre-marital counseling.**
- **If you are divorced or widowed, discuss with your priest/deacon what preparation program would be best for you.**

**Scholarships, based on need, are available for all programs. A letter of request and/or a financial aid application may be required.**