



# THE JOY-FILLED *Marriage* PROGRAM

## DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION SCHEDULE

2017

- MAY 19/20: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, COLUMBUS
- JUNE 9/10: SAINT ELIZABETH, COLUMBUS
- JULY 14/15: SAINT ELIZABETH, COLUMBUS
- AUGUST 18/19: SAINT ELIZABETH, COLUMBUS
- SEPT 29/30: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, COLUMBUS
- NOVEMBER 17/18: SAINT ELIZABETH, COLUMBUS

\* If you are interested in registering should someone cancel please send an email to [familylife@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org).

The Joy-Filled Marriage Program consists of a **Friday evening/Saturday** workshop, facilitated by a team of diocesan staff, married couples, a priest and a medical professional.

**Friday:** 6 PM – 9:30 PM  
**Saturday:** 9 AM – 4:30 PM

Workshops are held at various locations around the diocese. The fee of **\$175.00** per couple includes the cost of materials, dinner Friday, breakfast and lunch Saturday.

This comprehensive program covers virtue-based life skills, as well as the sacramentality of marriage, sacramental sexuality, and an introduction to Natural Family Planning. Certificate issued after completion of both days. For more details see reverse side.

VISIT [FAMILYLIFE.COLSDIOC.ORG](http://FAMILYLIFE.COLSDIOC.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

# THE JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:



**PART 1: LIVING A JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE** is a virtue based life-skills program that incorporates sound psychology with Catholic theology to help couples understand and set patterns of thought and behavior that ensure a joy-filled marriage. It springs from the teaching of Saint Pope John Paul II's *Familiaris Consortio*, which calls families and couples to explore their own uniqueness by seeking their identity and mission in Christ. Each part of this course emphasizes a particular aspect of our Christian mission.

Living A Joy-filled Marriage provides a unique learning environment. During each session the program incorporates a three-stage approach that helps couples assimilate the material, discuss and personalize the principles and set plans for applying the virtue based skills. Topics covered include Communication, Conflict Resolution, Managing Resources and Intimacy & Prayer.

**PART 2: GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE** is further divided into two main parts, each with three engaging presentations and two reflection exercises for couples.

### ***Morning Session - Catholic Faith & Your Marriage***

It is the common experience of those who work with engaged couples that the faith of these couples is most often in need of rediscovery, nourishment, and maturation. Following the basic Christian schema of "Creation, Fall, and Redemption," the morning session provides a reflection on the Word of God as understood by the Church in regard to God's plan for marriage and our need for Christ. It also helps couples understand the nature and meaning of the commitments they make in their exchange of vows. The morning session includes three presentations:

- God's Plan for Marriage "In the Beginning"
- Christ Restores God's Plan for Marriage
- What Are You Saying "I Do" To?

### ***Afternoon Session – Sacramental Sexuality***

While many factors have contributed to the breakdown of marriage and family life, special attention must be given to the widespread acceptance of new sexual attitudes and "lifestyles." There is no sidestepping this often difficult aspect of marriage preparation. Saint Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* provides the positive approach that is needed. Building on the foundation laid in the morning session *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage* presents the joys of "sexual honesty" before and within marriage. This includes three presentations:

- The Joy of Sexual Honesty Before Marriage
- The Joy of Sexual Honesty Within Marriage
- An Introduction to Natural Family Planning

**THE JOY-FILLED MARRIAGE PROGRAM** seeks to present the fullness of Catholic teaching on marital love in all its beauty. The creators of the program believe that when engaged couples understand God's plan for marriage they come away from the workshop with a sense of liberation and gratitude.