

**Catholic Marriage Preparation Weekend 2019
For the Northern Deanery**

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your recent engagement!

As part of each couple's plan to be married in the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Kingston, they are required to attend a Catholic Marriage Preparation Course. There are several options from which to choose, depending on your location and schedules. You and your parish priest can decide which course is most suitable for you.

The course we present in the Northern Deanery is completed in one weekend – **Friday, April 5 & Saturday, April 6, 2019**, and will take place at St. John Catholic High School in Perth. The weekend begins Friday evening at 6:30 pm, followed by a couple of presentations and ending about 9:30 pm. Saturday is a full day: 8:30 am to 5 pm. Lunch will be provided.

The main purpose of the weekend is to encourage you to begin, or continue, discussing and communicating on a variety of topics - to be fully aware of your partner's feelings and opinions on a number of key issues that must be discussed before you are married.

There is a wide variety of ages and experience among the engaged couples attending the course, so we cannot be specific to all of your individual needs and questions. Some topics will interest and benefit you, while in other areas you yourself might be more experienced. Some of the topics we will address are: Expectations of Marriage, Communication, Family Planning, Children, Finances, Marriage as a Sacrament, and Vocation and Planning the Wedding Ceremony.

Our course is prepared and presented by volunteer couples, whose most important qualification is a solid marriage and a belief in open, honest communication. Together with Father Rod McNeil we hope to provide you with a memorable and beneficial time.

Please send in your registration form and fee as soon as possible by mail or hand-delivery to St. Francis de Sales Parish Office in Smiths Falls (address is on registration form).

Our prayers and best wishes go with you as you undertake this rewarding and loving endeavour. We look forward to meeting you at the course. If you have any questions beforehand please contact Cathy and Toby James at 613-812-2255 (Cathy's Cell) or cathyjames@live.ca.

Sincerely,

The Marriage Preparation Team