

*What must be done to register for the day?*

Please fill out the form on the back of this brochure, enclose your registration fee of \$250.00 and mail it to the parish office as soon as possible: St. John the Baptist RC Church

1488 North Country Road

Wading River, New York 11792

The fee includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and program materials. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, call the parish office at (631) 929-4339.

*What if we cannot make the date listed in this brochure?*

It is important to let the priest or deacon with whom you are working know this right away so another arrangement can be made for you.

*Comments from past attendees!*

Loved it - best experience ever

Loved the personal stories and experiences shared

It was a really comfortable environment

Thank you for being laid back and welcoming

It was such a special day and we enjoyed every minute of it

We both feel more connected to the church and to each other

The couples were very effective in utilizing their experiences

Thank you all for your advice and openness

You made this a fun discussion

Today was extremely helpful - I'm willing to give faith a chance

The single day helped maintain momentum without losing focus

I was nervous to come today but found pre-cana to be helpful

Great program

I feel blessed to have met you all

I found the day to be affirming and educational

Great experience, thank you

It meant a lot to us to have our hands blessed

The candle prayer was very special

I learned a lot about myself and our relationship together

The way the program was organized was really perfect

*St. John the Baptist  
Roman Catholic Church*



*Parish Pre-Cana*

*Saturday*

*September 28, 2019*

*8:30 AM - 7:30 PM*

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*Wading River, NY 11792*

*631-929-4339*

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## PARISH PRE-CANA

### *An Opportunity for Enrichment*

Each engaged couple throughout our diocese is required to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage through attendance at marital preparation sessions, generally called Pre-Cana. It was at a wedding reception in the town of Cana in Galilee that Jesus performed his first miracle: the changing of water into wine. Thus, the name Pre-Cana is given to marriage preparation.

#### *Why does the Church require premarital preparation?*

The Church believes that Christian marriage is a vocation from God, and a fulfillment of one's baptismal commitment to Christ and to the Church. The Church values marriage highly and wants to help each couple take time to prepare for this sacrament. Most people talk about weddings, but very few people talk about marriage. Little has been offered to help couples prepare for the challenges which are part of Christian marriage. It takes great faith, commitment, and charity to enter into sacramental marriage. The Church wants to support engaged couples in this decision, and pass on some of the experiences of the Pre-Cana team.

#### *What happens on a Pre-Cana weekend?*

Our Pre-Cana team will lead a series of discussions and exercises designed to help each couple discuss more fully the various aspects of marriage. The focus of this day is not the wedding day or ceremony, but rather the marriage itself, the committed love a couple will share for years to come. The topics discussed span a broad range of concerns, including goals, values, family, communication, sexuality, children, finances and faith. There are a series of presentations, followed by activities guided by an established program entitled *A Marriage in the Lord*. Many of the exercises include a period of writing, followed by discussion with one's fiancé.

#### *How should we dress?*

Dress in comfortable and casual clothing. Please note that we will be going to the church for the 5 o'clock mass.



*And the two shall become one Mark 10:8*

#### *Where and when does it take place?*

Pre-Cana takes place at St. John the Baptist Church in the parish hall. It is a one day, full Saturday experience. We will attend the 5 o'clock mass, and receive a blessing from the community. It is recommended that Pre-Cana take place at least six months before the wedding date.

#### *Are these formal class presentations?*

The nature of the program is relaxed and informal with a focus on your personal enrichment. There is a great deal of time for interchange with your fiancé and with other couples. It is interactive, intense, and we believe an enriching experience.

#### *Are we required to speak in a large group or share personal experiences?*

The thrust of the sharing is between each engaged couple in private. There are opportunities for group discussions of a general nature, but no one is ever forced to speak.

#### *What do we need to bring to this day?*

All materials will be provided for you, as well as refreshments and breakfast, lunch and dinner. What is needed most of all is an open mind and a willingness to learn from the wisdom of the Church as presented through the team leading the day.

#### *How many people will be attending this day?*

Generally eight to fifteen engaged couples attend, along with the Parish Pre-Cana team.

#### *Is it necessary to attend the entire day?*

Yes. Since each presentation builds upon the former one, it is essential that engaged couples attend the entire day together. There is a momentum built throughout the day culminating in a prayer service Saturday evening.