

How do we sign up?

Apply online by going to:

<https://www.dosp.org/convalidation-application>

After completing the application, you will be directed to an online payment page.

Note - to receive a certificate of completion, both the husband and wife *must* be present for all applicable sessions. Please make sure your schedules are free of other commitments before submitting the application and payment.

How do we know if we're confirmed?

Applications are processed in the order received. A confirmation letter will be sent as an attachment to each email address provided.

This will:

- ◆ acknowledge the dates for which you are registered
- ◆ give details regarding program location
- ◆ provide other pertinent information

Couples are considered confirmed once the paperwork is processed and all penalties go into effect at that time.

If you don't hear from us within **2 weeks** of submitting your application, please contact deb@dosp.org but **first...check your junk mail folder.**

What if we have to cancel/postpone?

- ◆ A **\$25.00 rescheduling fee** applies to any session not postponed **21 or more days** in advance of the confirmed date. This fee also applies to those who no-show and need to reschedule.
- ◆ Complete cancellations are eligible for a 50% refund when notice is received a minimum of 3 full weeks before the first session for which they are registered. Partial refunds are not issued for unattended sessions.

Where is the program held?

Sessions are typically held at Bethany Center in Lutz. Details will be included in the confirmation letter you will receive. Since they serve only as the host facility, their staff is unable to answer questions about Journey to Matrimony or the marriage preparation process.

All contact should be with:

Office of Marriage & Family Life

E-mail: deb@dosp.org

Phone: 727 – 341 – 6847

8:30 to 5:00 - Mon. thru Fri.

*To ensure a more prompt response,
e-mail is the best way to contact us.*

Additional Information

- ◆ Both the husband and wife must attend the program together. If this isn't possible, please contact deb@dosp.org
- ◆ Those who attend as required will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the final session for which they are registered.
- ◆ Regardless of age or circumstances, we are unable to accommodate children. Please make alternate arrangements for their care while you're with us.
- ◆ Dress is casual and comfortable.

Convalidation 2022

*Preparation for
civilly married couples
seeking the
Sacrament of Matrimony*



*Office of Marriage & Family Life
Diocese of St. Petersburg*

The Convalidation Program is a series of half-day lecture-style workshops. Each session is presented by a marriage and family therapist or licensed mental health counselor. Sessions **do not** have to be taken in consecutive order.

Session 1 - Family of Origins

Discover ways in which your marriage commitment is influenced by experiences you had growing up in your family; identify how your relationship with parents and siblings play a role in the way you establish and maintain attachments. Become aware of the impact former relationship problems can have on your marriage. Learn from the past...and let the past work for you. As you strive to identify as a married couple, you will have a better understanding and appreciation of how relationships and experiences from the past can contribute to the present by enhancing your marriage.

Session 2 - Communication

This workshop will help couples identify obstacles to and enhancers of effective communication. Learn how to problem solve and communicate in an affirming and loving way and identify styles of communication that go toward compatibility and incompatibility. Discover practical pathways to effective problem solving, identify the basic languages in which couples communicate, and improve listening skills.

Session 3 – The Many Moods of Marriage

Navigating through the “many moods of marriage” can be a major challenge that all couples face. Learn more about commitment, intimacy, trust and other obstacles that can affect a marital relationship. This session will focus on ways to strengthen and enrich marriage and avoid the possible pitfalls that can cause conflict.

Session 4 - Blended Families

There are many tasks needed for a successful integration and blending of two families into one. This workshop will cover issues that include: overcoming loyalty issues, co-parenting, myths, and legends about step-parents, discipline strategies, and starting and establishing rituals and traditions as a new family unit. The Brady Bunch is only a TV show -- the real thing takes a lot of planning, understanding and hard work.

Dates & Application Deadlines

Session 1

January	22	Deadline 12/27/21
June	11	Deadline 5/23/22
September	10	Deadline 8/22/22

Session 2

February	12	Deadline 1/24/22
June	25	Deadline 6/6/22
September	24	Deadline 9/5/22

Session 3

February	26	Deadline 2/7/22
July	9	Deadline 6/20/22
October	22	Deadline 10/3/22

Session 4

March	5	Deadline 2/14/22
July	23	Deadline 7/1/22
November	19	Deadline 10/31/22

A Helpful Suggestion. . .

Rather than contacting us to check availability, it's better to submit the registration form & payment. While we try to reply promptly, the time spent waiting for a response can sometimes be the difference between getting confirmed, especially in cases where space is limited.

Application Details

In order to receive a certificate of completion:

- ◆ **All couples** are required to attend Sessions 1, 2 & 3.
- ◆ Those with **minor/dependent children** from a previous relationship **are also required to attend Session 4.**
- ◆ Sessions do not need to be taken in consecutive order.

How much does it cost?

Prior to the deadline:

\$125.00 - 4 sessions (if required)

\$105.00 - 3 sessions

After the deadline:

\$150.00 - 4 sessions (if required)

\$125.00 - 3 sessions

Those with financial difficulties should contact **deb@dosp.org**

What is include?

All materials, program related costs, and continental breakfast.

What are the times?

Each session begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 12 noon.