

## *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 another page for online payment.

*Please make sure both of your schedules  
are free of other commitments  
before signing up*

## *How do we know if we're confirmed?*

After your application is processed, an email is sent to each provided address which includes an attachment with a confirmation letter. This will provide pertinent information and acknowledge the sessions for which you are registered.

### **IMPORTANT. . .**

While there could always be exceptions, applications are usually processed within a few days of when they are submitted. The email is generated at that time with the subject line "**Convalidation Confirmation.**"

Since this is coming from an unknown sender with a ".org" extension, it's possible that some servers might consider this SPAM. If your INBOX doesn't show confirmation within **2 weeks of submitting your paperwork**, please **check your junk mail folder**. If after looking in both locations you still haven't heard from us, **please contact our office**.

## *Where does the program take place?*

*Sessions are typically held  
in St. Petersburg*

On very rare occasions we may have to switch the location of one or more sessions. To avoid any confusion the address isn't published in advance. Instead, this information and any specific facility details will be included in the confirmation letter.

## *What is include?*

The registration fee covers all program costs and materials. Continental Breakfast is served.

## *What are the times?*

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

## *What if we have to cancel/postpone?*

Regardless of circumstances, the following applies once your application is processed:

- ◆ Couples can postpone without penalty as long as notice is received a **minimum of 14 days** prior to the date of the applicable session.
- ◆ A **\$25.00 rescheduling fee** applies to each session that is postponed without the required advance notice.
- ◆ When a couple is a no-show and needs to reschedule, a **\$25.00 fee will apply to each occurrence**.
- ◆ Providing notice is received a **minimum of 3 weeks** before the first session for which a couples is registered, complete cancellations are eligible for a 50% refund.
- ◆ Partial refunds are not issued for sessions that are unattended.

*Office of Marriage & Family Life*

*E-mail: [deb@dosp.org](mailto:deb@dosp.org)*

*Phone: 727 – 341 – 6847*

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

*E-mail is the best way to contact us  
as we have access to this  
should we be away from the office*

# *Convalidation* **2023**

*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.

### ***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 identity 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	7	Deadline	1/3/23
June	10	Deadline	5/29/23
September	9	Deadline	8/29/23

### **Session 2**

January	28	Deadline	1/16/23
June	24	Deadline	6/12/23
September	23	Deadline	9/11/23

### **Session 3**

February	4	Deadline	1/23/23
July	8	Deadline	6/26/23
October	7	Deadline	9/25/23

### **Session 4**

February	25	Deadline	2/13/23
July	29	Deadline	7/17/23
October	28	Deadline	10/16/23

### ***A Helpful Suggestion. . .***

It's better to submit the application and payment rather than contacting us to check availability. If space is limited, the time spent waiting for a response could be the difference between whether or not we can accommodate you.

Prior to your paperwork being processed, there is no risk of losing money. However once processed, all fees and penalties go into effect as outlined in this brochure.

## ***Application Details***

- ◆ To complete this phase of the marriage preparation process, the husband and wife must attend all applicable sessions together. Please contact us if you are not able to do so.
- ◆ All couples are required to attend Sessions 1, 2, and 3.
- ◆ Those with **minor/dependent children** from a previous relationship **are also required to attend Session 4.**
- ◆ Since the program doesn't have to be taken in order, you are welcome to begin with any session.
- ◆ Those who attend as required 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** at any of the sessions. Please make alternate arrangements for their care.

### ***What is the cost to attend?***

#### **Prior to the deadline:**

**\$135.00\* - 4 sessions (if required)**

**\$115.00\* - 3 sessions**

#### **After the deadline:**

**\$155.00\* - 4 sessions (if required)**

**\$135.00\* - 3 sessions**

\*Once your application is processed all penalties go into effect as outlined in this brochure.

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