CHRISTMAS MASS REGISTRATION
https://st.john-catholic.org/parish-headlines/180896-christmas-mass-registration-worship-guide

RESOURCES
US Adult Catechism for Adults – Ch 21, p. 277 and Ch 30, p. 404.
Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) – 1601-1666.
New Catholic Answer Bible – K3
USCCB (US Conference of Catholic Bishops) www.foryourmarriage.org
https://bustedhalo.com/category/sacraments101
www.formed.org Then in the Sacraments category, click Symbolon: Catholic Faith Explained → Pt 2: Session 5 Matrimony & Holy Orders.

Working through seven ecclesial (Church) Sacraments:
Baptism  Reconciliation  Marriage
Eucharist  Anointing of Sick  Holy Orders
Confirmation

Review
Grace: God is always reaching out to us for relationship of love.
Sacrament: An intentional event of the Church whereby we interact with God through the Holy Spirit. (Official encounter with God.)
GOD’S PLAN for love and marriage: It is a sacramental plan.

Vocation: Text p. 531.
Each of is called to a life of seeking holiness.

Catholic Church definition of marriage:
The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized. Canon law 1055 §1.

In other words, God’s plan for marriage is
- permanent
- faithful
- fruitful

Text p. 280. Challenges in contemporary life of the definition and meaning of marriage.

CHASTITY CCC 2337-2359 and text p. 405-6. Definition text p. 506.

Just as with the criteria of permanence, the Church sets the goal of living a chaste life. With God’s help, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and the support and compassion we must hold for one another, we set our sights on the goals of life set by the Church, e.g. permanence of marriage and the call to chastity, and strive to grow in holiness throughout our lives.

Before a couple plans to marry, the Catholic Church requires a minimum of 6 months notice for counsel with a priest but also with other married couples. Foccus, Love & Deed, or Pre-Cana.
Time to have conversations about
• spirituality/faith
• conflict resolution (may be the difference between success & failure)
• careers
• finances/money Lack thereof
• Budget
• Expenditures
• His money, her money, our money
• children (procreative/fruitful)
• commitment (factor given for long-term success in marriage)
• time management (job commitments/household duties/computers)
• sex/fidelity (6th commandment-You shall not commit adultery, Ch 30)
• pornography
• internet impact on the Sacrament of Marriage in the last 15 years?

In marriage, the matrimonial consent, the exchange of promises, is the essential element of the Sacrament.

DIVORCE—A reality that cannot be ignored.
When a person has a civil divorce, they are still considered married in the eyes of the Church. (text 287-288)

A declaration of nullity (text 288) obtained through the annulment process of the Catholic Church would determine that the conditions for a sacramental marriage were not met.

Annulment is not a “Catholic divorce.” An annulment, or decree of nullity, declares that the Sacrament of Matrimony never happened. The annulment process provides an opportunity for the persons to understand themselves better as they seek lifetime commitments.

A valid Catholic marriage results from five elements:
(1) the spouses are free to marry
(2) freely exchange their consent
(3) the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and be open to children
(4) they intend the good of each other
(5) their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized Church minister.

In the case of decree of nullity, one of these conditions was not met from the beginning. It may not have been apparent in the beginning of their time together, but it becomes apparent in time...
The children of this union declared null are not considered illegitimate. Just because a person is divorced, or divorced and remarried, they are not excommunicated from the Church. Remarried persons without the process of annulment should not receive communion though until their marriage status can be considered in order according to the Church.

**WHAT HELPS A MARRIAGE WORK (3 C’s)**
Communication
Commitment
Common Values
CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

1. Fill in the blank with the words that follow and discuss.
   What does ________ look like in our family/marriage?
   gratitude    forgiveness    perseverance    kindness
   humility    respect    patience    fidelity

2. How does the example of marriage in #2 impact the children?
   Would there be also an impact on society?