

*Engaged and married couples who
are blending their families
are invited to attend the*

Marriage & the Blended Family Retreat



A blended family is created when a couple enters marriage after a prior marriage or domestic partnership, forming a new family that includes not only the spouses themselves, but their histories, relationships, any minor children or adult children, and the expectations that come with them.

VIEW DATES AND REGISTER AT
[dioceseoflansing.org/
blendedfamilies](https://dioceseoflansing.org/blendedfamilies)

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For Couples Entering a Second Union, At Any Stage of Life

Our retreat is based on the Smart Stepfamilies program developed by Ron L. Deal, nationally recognized author, therapist, and blended family expert.

His research-based framework addresses:

- Stepfamily dynamics
- Loss and unresolved grief
- Ex-spouse realities & co-parenting
- Spiritual shame after divorce
- Financial integration
- Adult children expectations
- Grandparent dynamics
- And the emotional realities of remarriage

This retreat is for you...

Whether you are:

- Preparing to raise children together
- Blending families with adult children and grandchildren
- Widowed and seeking companionship later in life
- Already married, and either spouse has been in a previous union
- Or seeking marriage for the first time after a domestic partnership with children

What Makes This Different from Typical Marriage Prep?

Traditional programs focus on:

- Communication, conflict resolution, and theology of marriage. Those are important.

But blended families require more:

- Addressing loss before building new unity, clarifying legal realities, managing extended family systems, navigating loyalty binds, and building a united marital foundation that can withstand outside pressures.

Without these conversations, couples often walk into preventable conflict.

Required for any engaged couple seeking marriage in the Diocese of Lansing where one or both fiancés is entering a second union with children.