

# TWELVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE MARRIAGE

- 1) Make a list of 5 things you appreciate about your mate. Read the list to them.
- 2) Get a bottle of sparkling cider and toast your relationship.
- 3) Give your mate a book on improving your relationship. Wrap it in nice paper and include a note saying you want this relationship to last a lifetime.
- 4) Surprise them with their favorite dinner or fast food. Eat together by candlelight with romantic music in the background.
- 5) Get a romantic card and in it thank your mate for 5 things they have done in the past year.
- 6) Buy one flower for them and lay it on their pillow with a note saying, "I love you."
- 7) Reminisce about when the two of you first met, first dated, first kissed.
- 8) Give your mate a box of those little hearts with messages on them. Then read the sayings to each other.
- 9) Ask your mate to tell you 5 ways you can be a better partner. Listen, write them down, do them.
- 10) Surprise your mate with their favorite ice cream, candy or dessert. Cuddle close to them and watch a romantic movie together.
- 11) Select a romantic song that communicates your love, turn the lights down low and slow dance to it, holding each other close.
- 12) Write 10 short messages (i.e., "You are the best," "I love you more and more each day," "Life would be boring without you," etc.) and place them throughout the house where your mate will find them.

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## RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

### Did you know that your marriage can be one of your life's most rewarding relationships?

It is a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. Whether you are 18 or 80, dating, engaged, or married, there is a class or seminar for the two of you.

### **NEW HOPE AT NIGHT: THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID**

Are women really impossible to understand? What about men? Have you ever been totally confused by something a guy said or did? Is there hope to discover what makes the opposite sex tick? Check out this free three week series at 5 pm on Sundays, March 3, 10 & 17 at New Hope Community Church. Childcare is free with your advanced registration. For info and registration call Shanin Engman 503.659.5683 X3062.

**ENGAGED ENCOUNTER** Lay and clergy couples share the joys, troubles, and victories that they have encountered in their marriages. Engaged couples then have opportunities, alone as a couple, to discuss the challenges they will face: such as maintaining open communication and resolving conflicts on issues such as religious differences, money, planning and sex. March 8-10 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center, Beaverton. Info and registration at [www.oregonengagedencounter.org](http://www.oregonengagedencounter.org).

**RETROUVAILLE** Is your marriage tearing you apart? If you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help. This Catholic peer ministry welcomes couples of all faiths, offering couples the chance to heal their marriage. It is an intensive weekend plus six evening follow-up sessions. Starting Mar 8-10 in Richland, WA (call 800.470.2230); Mar 15-17 in Baker, OR (call 360.892.7883), and Apr 19-21 in Mt. Angel, OR (call 360.546.5033)

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**Every Marriage Matters**

*Advocates for Healthy Marriage*

Check out additional resources at [www.EveryMarriageMatters.org](http://www.EveryMarriageMatters.org)