

APPOINTMENT

Before a **date** can be reserved, the couple must first make an **appointment** with the Parish Priest for an interview to determine all the details related to the marriage, preparation process and the ceremony itself.

The **first contact** should be done at least **nine** (9) months in advance of your intended date and before any other arrangements are made. Sometimes even more time might be required. If arrangements are made with the reception hall or caterers first, there is no guarantee that the Parish will be able to accommodate your choice of date or time.

If a couple is getting married in a parish **other than their own**, the permission of your regular parish priest will be required for the wedding to take place in the other parish.

The **mixed marriage** of a Catholic to a non-Catholic requires that certain conditions be observed. There is no obligation that the non-Catholic party become Catholic.

VENUE AND DATE

The church is **the only venue** available for your marriage excluding any outdoor or other building settings.

Weddings can take place on almost any weekday, but preferably on **Saturday** between 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Weddings are never celebrated on Sundays.

MARRIAGE LICENCE

In the Province of Ontario, couples are **married by licence**. The Province of Ontario website provides additional information regarding marriage licenses and banns. Obtain your licence only when the date is set and confirmed. Please notice that the licence has its expiry date. You need to deliver your license to the Parish Office as soon as you get it.

PREPARATION COURSE

Since you are planning to spend the rest of your lives together, every step must be taken to ensure your happiness. To this end, the Church offers a **marriage preparation course**, and it is expected that you will avail yourselves of this opportunity to grow together in love. Every year the Diocese of Hamilton offers many opportunities and dates for the courses for couples who are considering marriage, see below.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

<http://hamiltondiocese.com/>

see: FAMILY MINISTRY

see: MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

or call:

(905) 528-7988 x2250



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Marriage is a **vocation**, a calling by God to live a particular way of life. As Catholic Christians, the love between a wife and husband is the sign of how God loves us and how Christ loves the Church. This is why **Marriage is a Sacrament** and the Church has surrounded it with special traditions and sacred rites. Your love is to be a sign of hope for us all. This is why **it requires faith** to take on this vocation before the whole world and faith to trust that God will be present in your married life together.

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

Saint Mary's Church

133 Murray Street,

Brantford, ON, N3S 5P8

519-753-7316

www.marybrantford.com

PLANNING THE CEREMONY

You will plan your **wedding liturgy** with the assistance of the Parish Priest who will be officiating at your wedding. The couple is asked to not make any arrangements regarding musicians, decorations, flowers and photographers until first speaking with the Parish Priest.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is normally held on one of the evenings during the week before the wedding date. Everyone involved in the bridal and groom's party and those assisting in the ceremony should attend.

MUSIC

In selecting **the music** for your wedding, please remember that the ceremony is religious in nature, and thus the music must be sacred in character. Favourite popular songs meaningful to the bride and groom, are better suited to the wedding reception. The Parish will suggest an organist or musician or provide a policy on musicians from outside the parish.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photographer is required to be present at the rehearsal in order to be aware of the church's requirements.

PUNCTUALITY

As a sign of courtesy to all, everyone should **be on time** for the rehearsal and the wedding liturgy.

DECORATIONS

Flowers and **pew decorations** are welcome in the church for your wedding. At times, the church is decorated for specific seasons and feasts; these decorations are never removed or altered for weddings. Your flowers and decorations are in addition to the decorations already present in the church. The Parish does not provide floral stands or candelabra. Due to safety and fire regulations, aisle runners and arches are not permitted.

Either the florist or a member of the bridal party is responsible for contacting the Parish Office to arrange a time for the delivery of floral arrangements, as well as a time to decorate the church.

Flower petals, rice, birdseed, confetti and candles are serious environmental and janitorial issues and are not permitted in the church or outside on our grounds. We ask that couples refrain from the use of glitter on their decorations. An additional janitorial services fee might be applied.

CHURCH OFFERING

There is **no fee for the Sacrament**. Customarily a donation of \$200.00 for the Church is offered. Additional fees may include musicians or other services required and need to be established with the providers prior to the ceremony.

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

The **practice of your faith** will demonstrate that you are seriously preparing for this Sacrament and for your life together. Attending **Sunday Holy Mass**, a frequent reception of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during your engagement, lays a solid foundation of faith which will see you through the difficult moments that all marriages face, as well as deepen your times of joy together. It is customary for Catholics to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation (**Confession**) prior to your wedding date. You may check the parish website for confession times or make a special appointment.



COUPLE'S PRAYER

Lord God of love, by your hand you have led us to each other. As we journey together toward marriage, help us to be for one another a gentle lover, a generous listener, a firm supporter, a best friend. Let us never take each other for granted. Help us understand even in times of weakness, that love brought us together. Fill each day with some new discovery about our love for each other. Through good times and bad, in our joys and sorrows, be with us guiding and holding us in your gentle embrace. Amen.