

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Your priest will complete forms with you to make a permanent parish record of the significant step you are about to take. In addition, if one of you is not a Catholic, the documentation is part of the priest's request to the Bishop's Chancery on your behalf for permission for a "mixed marriage".

Baptismal Certificate(s): If you are a Catholic not baptised at St. Mary's, you must have a baptismal certificate issued within six months prior to your wedding. If you have been baptized in another Christian denomination, you must supply either your original certificate or a copy.

Ontario Marriage License:

A marriage license is mandatory for a wedding to take place anywhere in the Province. The license is valid for 90 days. It is not required for a Convalidation Ceremony.

<http://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-married>

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A formal Marriage Preparation Course is mandatory for all couples being married in our parish. We ask that on completion of the course, the certificate be included with the other necessary documents. It is recommended that you attend our Diocesan Preparation Programme.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON
MARRIAGE PREPARATION
COURSE
DIRECTOR - Teresa Hartnett
(905) 528-7988 x2250
<http://hamiltondiocese.com/>

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony



*St. Mary's Parish Community
Our Lady of the Assumption Church
Brantford
www.marybrantford.com*

INITIAL CONTACT AND DATES

You should contact your parish priest at least six months prior to your anticipated wedding date. Please don't make any arrangements regarding your wedding before getting the green light from your priest.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Some couples have special circumstances and will need further assistance in preparing to be married in the Church. Please discuss with your priest if:

either or both of you have been married before

either of you are or ever have been in a "common-law" union are now civilly married (to each other) and wish to have your marriage blessed (Convalidated) in the Catholic Church

either you or your fiancé is a teenager
a pregnancy is involved

one of you practices another faith tradition or does not follow any particular religious faith.

PLACE OF THE WEDDING

The wedding of two Catholics, or one Catholic and a validly baptized Christian of another faith community, is a sacramental liturgy and takes place in the parish church of either the bride or groom.

DONATION FOR USE

The customary donation for a wedding is \$200.00. Additional fees will be explained by the organist for all musicians.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

The Sacraments of Penance (Reconciliation) and Holy Eucharist should be a vital part of every Catholic's growth as a disciple of Christ in His Church. These Sacraments will prepare you for a more meaningful experience of your wedding liturgy and deepen your relationship with Jesus, the foundation of your married life together.

Every Catholic should complete his or her initiation into the Faith by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have not been confirmed, the time of your preparation for marriage can be an opportunity to prepare for Confirmation, as well. Your priest can give you the information you need.

PARISH REQUIREMENTS

Your parish priest will help you plan your wedding liturgy. The thought and care you put into the choice of readings and music will help make your liturgy a meaningful expression of you as a couple. Your marriage preparation class will provide you with suggested readings, music guidelines and a wedding planning sheet.

TIME OF WEDDINGS

Weddings are usually celebrated on Saturdays between 11am - 2 pm. Other days are possible with the exception of Sundays. Wedding Rehearsals are scheduled on the Thursday evening prior to the wedding. An alternate date may be considered to accommodate exceptionalities.

DO NOT BE LATE FOR YOUR WEDDING!

Music plays an important part in any celebration, whether sacred or not. Keep in mind that the wedding liturgy is meant to reflect the sacred covenant relationship between God and his people that was accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. For this reason, it is strongly recommended that at least a cantor be used in addition to the organ.

All music will be discussed at the planning meeting. Outside music must be approved by the parish priest.

We can recommend an organist and a cantor if you wish. You will need to contact them and they will present you with additional documentation regarding music and fee schedules.

CHURCH DECORATIONS & CLOTHING

Flowers and church decorating are the responsibility of the couple. Please let us know how you would like to decorate the church. After the wedding, you may take the flowers away or leave them for church decor. They will remind the whole congregation to pray for the newly wedded couple. If you plan to leave them in the church, please let us know in advance. You are free to use any florist of your choice.

No confetti, rice, seed or petals of any kind allowed on the church property. If you are going to have pew bows, make sure they are fastened in such a way as not to harm the pews (no scotch tape or tacks).

Aisle runners are not permitted.

Lastly, we ask that members of the bridal party be mindful that the church is a sacred space. Fashion trends can make this challenging for ladies especially. You are encouraged to talk with the Pastor about what is, and is not appropriate.