

# Planning Your Wedding Ceremony



## **ST. NORBERT'S** **ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

You are in a beautiful love story.

And now, you have made the decision to take this love and commitment to the next level by embracing the sacrament of marriage. With the blessing of God and faith in one another, you are ready to embark on this lifelong journey together.

As you begin the preparations for your wedding day, it is important to remember that the ceremony holds great significance. It is not just a celebration of your love, but also a reflection of the Christian values that define marriage and family life.

The Catholic Church acknowledges the uniqueness of each individual and the special bond you share as a couple. Therefore, it encourages you to actively play a role in planning and customizing your wedding ceremony. You have the opportunity to select from a wide range of Scripture readings, prayers, vows, blessings, and other meaningful elements that resonate with your personal journey.

In the process of choosing these elements, you will not only discover new dimensions of your love but also find inspiration to nurture and strengthen your relationship as you grow together as husband and wife.

Remember, while you may not have physically seen God, His presence is felt through the love we have for one another. By wholeheartedly loving and cherishing each other, we invite God to dwell within us. It is in this mutual love that His divine love is perfected.

May your love for one another and your commitment to God's love bring you endless joy, blessings, and fulfillment in your journey as a married couple.

**Here is some advice on how to plan your Wedding**

## **MUSIC FOR YOUR CEREMONY**

Music plays an important role during the celebration of the Mass.

When considering your music, you will need to select a musician/vocalist and discuss with him/her the songs that are appropriate for your wedding liturgy. Not all songs can be played in church.

Please note that here at St. Norbert's Parish, we have the following musicians/organists/vocalists who are professionally trained in providing music for liturgical celebrations:

**Albert Iaboni (Organist)** - 416-697-5491

**Caterina Gliosca (Vocalist)** - 416-268-2667

**Michelle Frizza (Vocalist & Organist)** - 416-828-8071

They know what songs are appropriate for weddings. The musician will help you in selecting the music that is acceptable for the celebration of the Mass. (Secular music is not allowed: i.e. Pop songs)

Fees are reasonable (approximately \$200.00-\$300.00)

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

**We ask you to use only parish musicians for your wedding ceremony as they know our organ and sound system levels.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The liturgy of the Word is very important as we are called to listen and reflect on God's words. As such, it is important, when selecting your readers, that they deliver God's words in a way that is clear, concise and easy to understand.

You will be responsible for choosing people (either family or friends) who, preferably, are recognized lectors within their parish to read the first and second readings and the universal prayer or prayers of the faithful.

We have prepared a PDF booklet that contains recommended readings that are fitting for weddings. You can select an Old Testament reading, a New Testament reading, and one of the three sets of prayers of the faithful (A, B, or C).

Please make sure to bring the readings you have chosen for your wedding ceremony, as well as any other relevant information, to the wedding rehearsal. These will be given to the priest conducting the ceremony.

### **Keep the following in mind when choosing your readers:**

Choose a reader who speaks clearly, is a recognized lector, and comfortable speaking in front of a large group. Familiarity with the Mass and reading with meaning is also important.

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

The following outline is the basic Order of Service for your wedding ceremony:

### **ENTRANCE RITE**

Procession

Opening Prayer

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### OPTION A

(Two readings)

Old Testament Reading

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament Reading

Gospel

Prayers of the Faithful

#### OPTION B

(One reading)

Old or New Testament

Responsorial Psalm

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Gospel

Prayers of the Faithful

**Note:** The first and second readings and the Prayers of the Faithful are the ones usually done by a friend or family member.

The responsorial psalm and the gospel acclamation is usually sung by the vocalist. He/she will discuss this with you.

## **RITE OF MARRIAGE**

Exchange of vows

Blessing of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Prayer over the Gifts

Preface

Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Communion

Prayer after Communion

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

Final Blessing

Signing of the Register

Recessional

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

This section deals with questions that arise in the planning of the ceremony:

### **What is the fee for the church?**

The church offering is \$500.00 and is payable at the wedding rehearsal.

### **Are we responsible for obtaining a marriage license?**

YES, you will be responsible for obtaining a marriage license through City Hall. You should obtain your license no earlier than 90 days (3 months) prior to your wedding date. You are then required to bring the documentation to us for completion and which you will be required to sign, along with your witnesses, on the day of your wedding.

### **Does the church allow the throwing of confetti, rice, blowing of bubbles, etc?**

There is to be absolutely no throwing of rice or confetti either inside or outside the church. Should you wish to use bubbles, you may do so outside in the church parking lot.

## **What is an acceptable dress for the bride and bridesmaids?**

It is important to remember that your wedding mass is a sacred occasion and excessive secular attire can detract from its significance. Therefore, when selecting dresses for the bride and bridesmaids, it is recommended to opt for modest styles that are not overly revealing. A wrap is also recommended. Throughout the wedding ceremony, it is necessary to cover the shoulders of strapless dresses with wraps, which can be removed during the reception.

## **How many flowers should be brought to the church?**

We suggest no more than two baskets/arrangements of flowers to be placed beside the altar.

## **Are runners permitted up the centre aisle?**

Although we do allow the use of a runner, we do not recommend doing so. Should you choose to use a runner, you assume any liability for slips and falls.

## **Can we present flowers to the Blessed Mother?**

We strongly suggest to avoid it because it's not part of the liturgy. However, should you choose to do so, we suggest no more than six stems of flowers. Flowers are usually presented by the couple prior to the signing of the register.



### **Does the church provide the unity candle?**

No, the unity candle is not a necessary part of the wedding ceremony. The church does not provide one, and we strongly suggest to avoid it.

### **Are flower petals allowed to be dropped on the way up the aisle?**

NO

### **If we have candles set up down the aisle, can these be lit?**

No candles down the aisle are allowed.

### **Is a wedding always celebrated with a Mass?**

In cases of mixed marriages where one party is not Catholic, Mass may not be held. This is because the Eucharist is a symbol of unity in faith, which would not be possible in a mixed marriage where the non-Catholic party or their family members cannot receive communion. Mass is prohibited in all cases of disparity of cult. A wedding that includes the celebration of the Eucharist typically lasts for 45 minutes, while a wedding without the celebration of the Eucharist lasts for approximately 30 minutes.

**Is the church hall available to rent in order to provide lunch for the wedding guests?**

NO

**What age is appropriate for Ring Boy/Flower Girl?**

Please remember that this is a wedding, not a show. Only children who are of school age (4 years and older) should be chosen to participate in the bridal party. Younger children may have difficulty paying attention, become unsure of what to do, feel scared and overwhelmed with so many people looking at them, and may need to be carried down the aisle by a relative.

**NOTE:** It is not necessary to have a ring boy or flower girl if you don't have anyone to fill the role simply have the Best Man carry the rings.

**Who should attend the wedding rehearsal?**

The following individuals only are required:

Bride

Groom

Attendants

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Readers

## **Can we bring in an outside priest to celebrate the Mass?**

If you would like a priest who is not assigned to our parish to celebrate a Mass, you must inform our office and obtain permission from the pastor. Please be aware that you will be responsible for compensating the priest directly for their services. Additionally, please ensure that the priest you request is licensed in Ontario to perform weddings. If you contact a priest from outside the province, they may not have the appropriate license.

**NOTE:** Even if you bring your own priest, the rules of this church for the weddings will remain the same.

## **Should we go to confession if we are having a Mass with the Eucharist?**

The answer is most definitely YES. This should be done a week prior to the wedding during the scheduled confession times of the parish. It will not be done at the rehearsal.

## **What are our ushers expected to do?**

They are expected to be just that—ushers. They are responsible for looking after getting your guests seated in the church. They are not to be the center of attraction or upcoming comedians making their debut here at the church.

## **Smoking in the church**

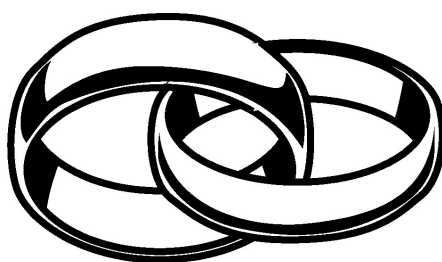
Smoking in the church is absolutely forbidden. If you or your guests need to smoke, we ask that they do so at least 50 ft. from the front door.

## **What are acceptable video & photography practices?**

If the crew you have hired has previously worked on weddings at St. Norbert's, then they should be familiar with the necessary requirements.

**THIS IS A SACRED PLACE!** They will not be allowed to draw attention to themselves in any way, shape or form. When the Eucharist is being celebrated, and especially during the consecration, readings and homily, they are to stay away from the front. This is especially true for the videographers. They are not to go to the sanctuary. Also, they do not need to videotape all the readings.

**NOTE:** As you are the one hiring the photographer, please advise your guests to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony as it takes away from the sacredness of the Mass and only draws attention to themselves.



## **What about parking for bus rental and limo?**

Be careful with the bus rentals as parking is very limited in our parking lot.

Upon completion of the ceremony, it is imperative that all guests exit the church parking lot immediately upon boarding their respective vehicles, bus or limo. We kindly request that any champagne toasts be made while departing for the photo shoot. This is particularly crucial for the first wedding of the day, as it will greatly alleviate traffic and parking issues for subsequent weddings.

**NOTE:** Please do not block the main entrance driveway of the church with your bus or limo as this is the only means of entering and exiting. Any violation of this policy will result in your limo or bus being towed at your expense. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Please do not block the garage door as priests are always on call and have to be able to go out as needed.**



## **MARRIAGE CLASS INFORMATION**

In order to be married in the Archdiocese of Toronto, you will be required to complete a marriage course prior to your wedding. We recommend that it be completed no later than four months prior to your wedding date.

The following are some options for marriage classes. We suggest you contact them directly to find out availability and costs, and registration:

### **WEEKEND RETREAT - ENGAGED ENCOUNTER**

Queen of Apostles Renewal Center

1617 Blythe Road

Mississauga, ON

TEL: 905-278-5229

Email: [office@qoa.ca](mailto:office@qoa.ca)

### **CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES (Central office)**

1155 Yonge Street

Toronto, ON

TEL: 416-921-1163

Website: [www.cfstoronto.com](http://www.cfstoronto.com)

(Once you are at the website, follow the link to Marriage Preparation.)

May your marriage be a  
long adventure in personal growth

May you have true friends to stand by you in joy  
and in sorrow

May you be deeply involved in the events of  
your times

May you take time to reflect on the wonder of  
being

May you see your children's children to the  
third and fourth generation

May you come to old age and grey hair in peace  
and contentment

May you be kind to each other always.