

Planning Your Wedding Ceremony



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

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INTRODUCTION

You are in love.

Moreover, the two of you have decided to step into the future by promising, with faith in each other and in God, to marry for life.

In addition, you as a couple, probably for the first time, have accepted the main responsibility for a major social event, one which will demand a significant outlay of money, time, and energy.

You want your marriage to work and your wedding to be wonderful. Accordingly, this booklet has been designed to help you achieve both goals.

Of all the details you'll have to attend to as you prepare for your wedding day, none is more important than the actual ceremony itself. In the rite of marriage, you'll be saying "I do" not only to each other, but also to the Christian vision of what married love and family life are all about.

The Church recognizes that each of you is a unique individual and, together, thus form a unique couple. Consequently, it hopes you will actively plan and participate in a nuptial ceremony which will be distinctly your own, while still following a pattern standard for all Catholic weddings.

The Church provides a rich resource of Scripture readings, prayers, vows, blessings and other alternatives from which you can select those that personally seem most appropriate and attractive.

In the course of your preparations, the reading of these meaningful texts will be an opportunity for you to discover new aspects in the reality of your love as well as being a continuing inspiration to you after your wedding as you grow together as husband and wife.

No one has ever seen God.
Yet if we love one another
God dwells in us,
And his love is brought to perfection in us.

"1 John 4:12"

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.

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 functions:

Albert Iaboni (Organist) - 416-697-5491

Caterina Glosca (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 would like to request that you use only parish musicians, if at all possible, 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 to choose people (either family or friends) and who, preferably, are recognized lectors within their parish, to read the first and second readings.

We will provide you with a pdf booklet that includes suggested readings suitable for weddings. Choose one Old Testament reading and one New Testament reading and indicate your choices on the form that is included in the booklet.

The readings you have selected together with any other pertinent information regarding your wedding is to be handed in to the priest at your wedding rehearsal.

Keep the following in mind when choosing your readers:

Select someone that will speak slowly and clearly (preferably someone who is a recognized lector within their parish). Make sure that person is comfortable speaking in front of a large group of people. Try to choose someone who is familiar with the Mass and will read the readings with meaning.

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

OPTION B

(One reading)

Old or New Testament

Responsorial Psalm

Gospel

Note: The first and second readings 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

Prayer of the Couple (recited by priest or deacon)

Prayers of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts (Bread and Wine). This takes place immediately after the prayers of the faithful. Only two people are required.

Most often, the two mothers are chosen to bring up the gifts or the Best Man and Maid of Honour.

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 in 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 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 acceptable dress for the bride and bridesmaids?

Please keep in mind that your wedding mass is a sacred moment and often times, too much of the secular destroys that reality. Accordingly, when choosing dresses for the bridesmaids, as well as the bride's dress, please ensure that it is not too revealing. (A wrap is recommended.) During the entire wedding ceremony, wraps will be required to cover shoulders for dresses that are strapless. This can then be removed when proceeding to the wedding 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 6 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?

Not always. If there is a mixed marriage whereby one party is not Catholic, it is strongly suggested that there be no Mass. The reason being is that the Eucharist is a sign of unity in faith. Clearly, in a mixed marriage situation, this would not be the case since the non Catholic or any family members of the non-Catholic would not be able to receive communion. Mass is forbidden in all circumstances of disparity of cult cases.

A wedding with the celebration of the eucharist is about 45 minutes. A wedding without celebration of the eucharist is about 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?

Keep in mind that this is a wedding and not a production. Children chosen to be included in the bridal party must be of school age (4 years and up). Children that are younger than this don't have the attention span, end up not knowing what to do, get scared and overwhelmed by having all these people looking at them and end up having 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?

You may request a priest who is not assigned to our parish. However, you will need to advise our office in order to obtain the pastor's permission. Also, please note that you are responsible for compensating the priest for his services directly. Also, ensure that the priest you request to celebrate the Mass is licensed in Ontario to perform weddings. If you call a priest who is out of the province, they may not have the necessary 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

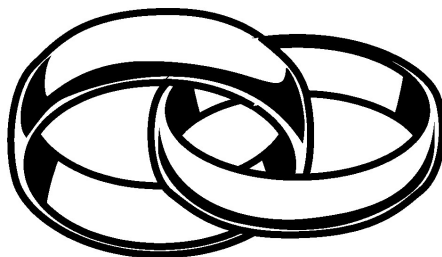
Smoking in the church is absolutely forbidden. If you or your guests need to smoke, we ask that they do so at least 50 ft. from the front door.

What are acceptable video & photography practices?

If the crew you hired have done weddings previously at St. Norbert's, then they will know what is required.

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 on 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.



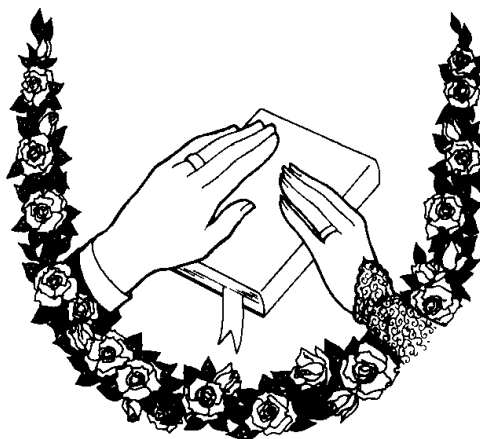
What about parking for bus rental and limo?

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

Once you are in the bus or limo after the ceremony, you are required to leave the church parking lot. If you plan on opening up some champagne to toast, we ask that you do this as you leave on your way to the photo shoot. This is especially important for those of you who are the first wedding of the day. This will help to ease up the traffic and parking congestion from the next wedding coming in.

NOTE: As the driveway at the main entrance of the church is the only means of entering and exiting, we ask that your bus or limo **DOES NOT BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY** at the main entrance to the church. Any abuse of this policy will result in the towing away of your limo or bus at your cost.

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 4 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

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES (Central office)

1155 Yonge Street

Toronto, ON

TEL: 416-921-1163

Website: 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.