

Planning Your Wedding Ceremony



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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INTRODUCTION

You are in the midst of a beautiful love story and have decided to take your commitment to the next level by embracing the sacrament of marriage. As you prepare for your wedding day, it's essential to remember that the ceremony holds great significance. It's a celebration of your love and reflects 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 participate actively in planning and customizing your wedding ceremony. You have the opportunity to select from a wide range of Scripture readings, prayers, blessings, and other meaningful elements that resonate with your personal journey.

It's important to remember that while you may choose certain parts of the Mass, the liturgy and ritual of the church cannot be changed. The sacred religious ceremony should not be turned into a theatrical performance.

Remember, this is a sacrament that connects you more closely to God, whom you are asking to seal your union until death. 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. Joseph the Worker Parish, we have musicians who are professionally trained in providing music for liturgical celebrations.

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 to be discussed with them personally.

IMPORTANT NOTE

We ask that you use only parish musicians for your wedding ceremony, as they are familiar with 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 are preferably 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 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 remember to bring your chosen readings and any relevant information to the wedding rehearsal and give them to the priest.

Keep the following in mind when choosing your readers:

Choose a reader who speaks clearly, is a recognized lector, and is 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 (Groom, Bridesmaids, Bride)
Opening Prayer and Gloria

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPTION A (Two reading)	OPTION B (One reading)
FIRST READING From the Old Testament	FIRST READING From the Old Testament
RESPONSORIAL PSALM (usually sung by the singer)	RESPONSORIAL PSALM (usually sung by the singer)
SECOND READING From the New Testament	-----
GOSPEL	GOSPEL
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL (A-B-C)	PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL (A-B-C)

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

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

RITE OF MARRIAGE

After the homily of the priest:

- Exchange of vows
- Blessing of Rings
- Universal Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Offertory
- Consecration
- Our Father
- Nuptial Blessing
- Sign of Peace
- 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 you can bring it to the wedding rehearsal or to the parish office.

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, 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?

Throwing rice or confetti is prohibited within or outside the church. Bubbles are allowed 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?

We do not recommend using a runner as the church's floor is as beautiful as it is and does not require one.

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 necessary for the wedding ceremony.

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

No, that is also not part of the liturgy and it is not allowed.

Can we have candles set up down the aisle?

No. Candles are not allowed to be placed down the aisle.

Is a wedding always celebrated with a Mass?

Mass may not be celebrated in mixed marriages where one party is not Catholic. 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 from 45 minutes to one hour, 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 (6 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 accompanied down the aisle by an adult.

NOTE: It is not necessary to have a ring boy or a 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 and Groom
- People involved in the ceremony (Bridesmaids, Ushers, Readers)
- Parents of the Bride and of the Groom

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 service. Additionally, please ensure that the priest you request has faculty to celebrate mass in the Archdiocese of Toronto and is licensed in Ontario to perform weddings.

NOTE: EVEN IF YOU BRING YOUR OWN PRIEST, THIS CHURCH'S RULES FOR 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 parish's scheduled confession times. It will not be done at the rehearsal.

What are our ushers expected to do?

Ushers are expected to be just that: ushers. They are responsible for getting your guests seated in the church. They are not to be the center of attention or upcoming comedians making their debut in the church.

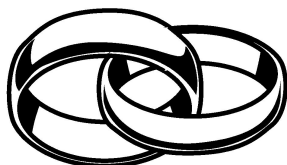
Smoking in the church

Smoking in the church is absolutely forbidden. If you or your guests need to smoke, please do so at least 50 meters from the front door.

What are acceptable video & photography practices?

If your hired crew has experience with weddings at St. Joseph the Worker, they should be familiar with the requirements. It is important to note that this is a sacred space, and therefore, they will not be allowed to draw attention to themselves in any way during the wedding ceremony. **During the Eucharist, and especially during the readings, homily, and consecration, they must stay away from the front and remain still.** This is especially important for the videographers, who are not allowed to go to the sanctuary. If they have any questions or concerns, they should speak to the priest on the wedding day.

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?

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 way to enter and exit. 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. Priests are always on call and must be able to leave as needed.



MARRIAGE CLASS INFORMATION

In order to be married in the Archdiocese of Toronto, you must complete a marriage course before your wedding. We recommend completing it no later than four months before your wedding date.

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

May your marriage be a long adventure in personal growth.

May you have true friends to stand by you in joy and 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 generations.

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

May you always be kind to each other.