

A WEDDING AT CROATIAN MARTYRS

We hope that the following will help you prepare for your wedding at Croatian Martyrs Parish.

We urge you to remain in charge of your wedding day and keep the emphasis on the Sacrament of Marriage.

Church law dictates that the normal place in which marriage should take place is the parish of the bride or groom. Consequently, Croatian Martyrs Parish restricts weddings to parishioners who are registered and who come to our parish on a regular basis. Though your parents may already be registered members of the parish, we ask that you do so apart from them.

Registration is usually done on Sunday by attending Mass and taking a registration form. After filled out, the form is to be returned to the Parish office.

Booking Dates for Marriage

The couple must contact the priest **at least one year in advance of the proposed marriage date**. If there are particular circumstances why the wedding should be held earlier these should be discussed with a priest of the parish. Early notification allows for registration, participation in a marriage preparation course and the time for the necessary documents to be gathered and the forms to be completed. We advise you not to book any halls before you meet with the priest.

Times of Weddings

On Saturdays, we have definite hours for weddings – 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. Weddings are not allowed on Sundays. Other days of the week are certainly negotiable. We do not celebrate weddings during the Season of Lent. We suggest not to celebrate weddings during the Season of Advent.

Pre-Marriage Courses

Pre-marriage courses are required for all couples anticipating marriage in this parish. Marriage Preparation Courses are offered within the parish in Croatian language. If the groom or bride does not speak Croatian, the couple will be advised about the possibilities for Marriage Preparation Courses in English. There is often a waiting list and so you must register as soon as you have a confirmed date for your wedding.

The Minister of Marriage

Usually, the priest with whom arrangements are made for the wedding and who conducts your first interview will be the minister who witnesses your vows at the marriage ceremony. Visiting priests/ deacons, especially close relatives, are always welcome celebrants at your wedding if permission is first obtained. Please inform the parish priest on time so that a temporary licence may be obtained.

Documents Required

1. Baptismal Certificates

Every Catholic being married must obtain a current certificate of Baptism, that is, one that has been issued within the last six months. The parish of baptism should be contacted in due time and one simply asks for a certificate of Baptism for the purposes of marriage.

A non-Catholic party, if baptized, should also provide proof of Baptism. This need not be a current document, as the original will suffice (we will take a photocopy).

2. Certificate of Marriage Preparation

When an approved course has been completed, please bring the certificate to the office to be added to your file.

3. Marriage Licence

All couples must obtain a marriage licence. These licences can be obtained at any City Hall in the province of Ontario. A birth certificate of valid passport is needed. One person may pick up and return the application form, provided they have the proper identification of the fiancé(e). In this province, a licence is valid for only 90 days. As soon as a licence has been obtained it should be brought to the parish office (at least two weeks in advance of the wedding). There is nothing on the licence that the couple should fill out. The parish secretary will prepare if for use on the wedding day.

4. PREVIOUS MARRIAGES (if applicable)

If a previous marriage existed, the following documents are required:

- a) death certificate or a divorce decree absolute;
- b) an official confirmation from the proper ecclesiastical court with regard to the dissolution of nullity of the marriage;

c) Parental Consent (if applicable)

Consent of parents or guardians is required to enter marriage legally if one of the partners is under the age of 21.

Spiritual Preparation

So that the Sacrament of Marriage may be fruitfully received, it is earnestly recommended that the couple prepare themselves spiritually through prayer, Scriptural meditation, regular participation in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession).

Donation to the Parish (Marriage Tax)

At the Croatian Martyrs Parish we ask that the bride and groom make an offering to the parish in the amount of \$300. This donation should be submitted in the form of a check payable to Croatian Martyrs Parish, preferably at the time of rehearsal. A tax receipt will be issued.

Planning the Liturgy

There are two forms of the liturgical celebration of marriage: 1) during Mass and 2) during a Liturgy of the Word (outside Mass). When both parties are Catholics, marriage is usually celebrated during Mass (if there are no contrary reasons, such as that a priest is not allowed to celebrate another Mass). **Mixed marriages** (between a Catholic and a non-Catholic) **are always celebrated without Mass**.

Since the wedding ceremony centers around the couple, it is only natural that both should participate actively in planning the details. The couple is given the opportunity to choose a number of prescribed Scriptural passages. Please finalize your choice with the presiding priest.

Lectors
(Readers)

Readers may be chosen by the couple to proclaim the readings, as well as the General Intercessions. They should be either Catholics or Baptized Christians. Those chosen should be able to proclaim the readings clearly and devoutly.

Music

Music is an important part of the wedding celebration. It should reflect the sacredness of the celebration. **For this reason, secular songs or show tunes are not considered suitable nor allowed in a wedding ceremony.**

If, for a special reason, you wish to have a family member or personal friend for music, please consult with the parish pastor well in advance of the wedding. If visiting musicians are allowed, they must have their repertoire approved by the presiding priest at least two weeks in advance of the wedding ceremony.

Flowers

Flowers for the wedding are optional, and the sole responsibility of the bridal party. No silk or artificial flowers, stands, arch, carpets, or any other additional objects are allowed in the church. It is expected that flowers will not be removed from the church following the wedding. Florists should be advised to contact the office about the delivery of the flowers.

Where there is more than one wedding on the same day, the couples may wish to contact each other about the possibility of sharing expenses.

Confetti

The use of rice, confetti, bird seed, or any other materials is not allowed in the church or on the church property as these make a mess of carpets and create a clean-up for the caretaker.

Rehearsal

Please arrange a time for the rehearsal with the presiding priest. All those who are in the wedding party or taking part in the liturgy are expected to attend the rehearsal. Please be on time.

Photography

A wedding is indeed a memorable event. However the marriage ceremony itself is a sacred event which takes place in the house of God. In keeping with the dignity of a church wedding, and with reverence for God's house, the following guidelines are to be observed:

Most couples contract with a professional photographer and/or videographer. This is entirely your choice. Please have your designated photographer speak with the priest at least 15 minutes before wedding in order to receive instructions and restrictions. Most photographers are very co-operative and will follow these instructions. Please make sure your photographer and videographer are given a copy of the guidelines.

The usual times for photography are – when the bride enters, the exchange of vows, the signing of the register and when the couple leave:

the use of additional or accessory lighting is prohibited: (except the standard flesh) In the case of videographers, this means no additional lights may be set up.

no photographer is permitted to be in the Sanctuary or walk across the Sanctuary during the ceremony. No photographic equipment may be used in the Sanctuary.

in the case of videographers, the person making the video may not walk about with the recorder during the ceremony. The machine will have to be set up, as on a tripod, at a point where the best recording can be made, but not in the Sanctuary.

Promptness

Respect for your guests and awareness of the importance of the occasion should prompt you to be on time. (If you are late the priest may have to shorten the ceremony).

A Final Word

Remember, the wedding is one day – the marriage is a lifetime. You are about to say "I do" not only to each other, but also to Christ's plan of what married love and family life are all about.



**CELEBRATING
YOUR MARRIAGE**

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Martyrs
Parish

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