

The occasion of your marriage is a very special time for you, your families and friends. Because it is FIRST and FOREMOST the giving and receiving of a SACRAMENT, and therefore an act of WORSHIP, it will be celebrated in Church before God, a priest, your witnesses, family and friends. With this in mind, we ask you to please observe the following requests:

1. **REGULAR SUNDAY MASS:** Attendance at Mass each Sunday is expected of our couples. Your worship together will bring God's blessings on your love and guide your preparation.
2. **CONFESSION:** We suggest Confession for all Roman Catholics involved on the Saturday before the Wedding Day.
3. **REHEARSALS:** The wedding and the rehearsal **WILL START ON TIME.** Please have the people involved in the rehearsal dress appropriately, and maintain a respectful quiet in the Church. All the wedding party, parents, readers and gift bearers should be present for the rehearsal. Please be sure to bring the 5 offering envelopes at this time.
4. **PHOTOGRAPHER:** One official photographer is free to work using dignity and common sense. He should see the priest in the sacristy before the wedding. The Church is NOT a photo studio – it is the House of God. Please remind your guests that cell phones must be turned off when entering the church.
5. **TIMES OF MARRIAGE:** Normally on Friday evenings or on Saturday at 1:00p.m. or 3:00 p.m. Other days and times (except Sundays) can be arranged with the priest.
6. **CONFETTI:** Confetti, candy, rice, flowers, birdseed, etc. are not to be thrown inside or outside of the Church. Please notify your guests to observe this.
7. **PARKING:** Cars may be parked in the paved lot in behind the church and side.
8. **INVITATIONS:** Because of Saturday evening Mass, it is impossible for the priest to attend Wedding Banquets scheduled for the same hour. If possible, the priest will drop in to the Wedding Reception after the evening Mass if the couple invites him and informs him of its location.

9. **FLOWERS & OTHER DECORATIONS:** The decision to have floral arrangements in the Church is left to the discretion of the bride and groom. The placement of flowers will be determined following consultation with the priest. Flower arrangements may **not** be placed on the Altar.

*\*\*\*\*Please let us know when your florist is delivering the flowers to ensure that the church is open and someone is able to direct them.*

10. **MARRIAGE CEREMONY:** Should be expressive of you in the most beautiful manner possible. You will receive a copy of suggested Scripture Readings. The bride and groom are encouraged to look it over carefully and discuss the various options with the priest. You are invited to have family and friends proclaim the First and Second Readings and the General Intercessions. Also, you may have relatives and friends as gift bearers at the Offertory if Mass is celebrated.

11. **MUSIC:** Choice of music must be appropriate, complimenting the sacred and prayerful nature of the Sacrament of Marriage. Thus secular music is not appropriate during the celebration of the Sacred Rites.

Please contact our parish musicians:

Organist: Gordon Okawra at 905-627-0727 by email at okawara@hhsc.ca

Guitarists: Dario Armellini by email at armellinimusic@hotmail.com

Bernadette Homerski by email at bernhom@nas.net

*\*\*\*\*\*Please note that only our musicians can be used for your wedding. If this is a problem or you have questions or concerns contact our parish office 905-544-0488.*

12. **ATTIRE:** Your wedding attire for this day should be in keeping with the sacredness of the event and the Holy place where it takes place. Attractive dress is acceptable...immodest dress is not.

13. **MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:** All our couples are expected to take a Marriage Preparation Course or an Engaged Encounter. The Diocesan Family Life Office (905) 528-7988 offers several courses each year. Please complete the form Father will give you at your first meeting to register for a course. We suggest you register immediately to assure a place on your chosen date.

14. **FAMILY PLANNING:** The Catholic Church endorses Natural Family Planning. Please call the Family Life Office at 905-528-7988 for further information.

# The Celebration of Marriage

15. **MIXED MARRIAGES:** The non-Catholic party is invited to understand the Catholic Faith and its beliefs since the children will be baptized and raised as Catholics. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is available as well as personal instruction for those desiring to enter the Catholic Faith.

16. **FORMS:**

- a) **MARRIAGE LICENSE** should be obtained at City Hall within three months before the marriage and dropped off at the parish office as soon as possible.
- b) **BAPTISM CERTIFICATES** (i) Catholics should obtain a **new one** issued within six months of your initial meeting with Father. These are to be obtained from the parish of Baptism. (ii) Non-Catholics – original Baptism Certificate and given to Father as soon as possible.
- c) **MARRIAGE CEREMONY** selection sheet should be completed and returned to Father at the final meeting with him before the wedding.
- d) **NAME CHANGE:** As of April 1, 1987, the surname of the groom does not become that of the bride by reason of marriage. For a change of spousal surname, an application with supporting documentation must be submitted to the Ontario Marriage Registrar following the wedding.

17. **FEES AND OFFERINGS:**

Presented to the priest at **rehearsal time in 3 separate envelopes:**

- 1) Musicians: **as determined after your discussion with them**
- 2) Church use: **\$ 200**
- 3) Priest Celebrant – Honorarium amount is left to the generosity of the bride and groom. (Please keep in mind the time the priest spends with you, paperwork, time conducting the rehearsal and the ceremony).

**PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO BE ON TIME FOR  
BOTH REHEARSAL & WEDDING.**

**God bless you both as you prepare for your new life as a married couple.**



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Pastor: Fr. Joseph Durkacz