

## **Guidelines For Celebrating Your Marriage at Saint Peter's Parish**

When you decide to celebrate your marriage ceremony in the Church, you are asking for more than a social celebration. You are asking that your marriage be a "sacrament," a visible sign of the presence of God in your life and your love. You and your spouse will be the "presence of God" in the world and God, in turn, will be made present in you, helping you to grow more in love throughout your lives together.

Although marriage is a social contract, it is much more than that. Marriage is a sign of the love and faithfulness that God has for all His people as well as a sign that He is really and truly present in each of you.

Our responsibility, here at Saint Peter's parish, is to help you to understand the spiritual significance of your decision to marry and to guide you through the process of preparing for that day in which you will publicly declare your love for each other and join together, in love, as husband and wife.

### **Step One: The Pre-Nuptial Interview and Documentation Process**

The first step to preparing for marriage in the Church requires that you meet with Father Michael Corcione, our pastor, who will interview the two of you together and individually, under oath, to help you assess your readiness to enter into marriage.

At this time, Father Michael will inform you of the necessary documents you will need for the marriage preparation process to continue. The following is a list of the documents you will need to submit to the Church:

1. an updated baptismal certificate from the Church where you were baptized. This certificate should be no older than SIX (6) months prior to your scheduled wedding date.
2. certificate or verification of the date and place of your confirmation
3. certificate of attendance from a pre-approved marriage preparation course IF THAT COURSE WAS NOT TAKEN HERE AT SAINT PETER'S PARISH
4. names and addresses of your two witnesses (best man and maid of honor)
5. CIVIL LICENSE (if applicable) from the Province of Ontario no more than THREE (3) months prior to your marriage ceremony.

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE DOCUMENTS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE SO THEY MAY BE PLACED IN YOUR MARRIAGE FILE. ALL OF THESE DOCUMENTS ARE NECESSARY AND ESSENTIAL BEFORE THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY MAY TAKE PLACE. IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.**

### **Step Two: Registering For a Marriage Preparation Course**

The next step is to register for a marriage preparation course. These courses are offered here at our parish for all couples planning to marry in the upcoming year. Couples planning to marry between the months of January and August of any given year are required to attend the marriage course to be held in the months of October and November the previous year (section one). Those couples preparing to marry between the months of September and December should register for the course that is held in January and February of the same year (section two).

If you so choose, you may attend another marriage preparation course offered at another facility in the area. Our parish office can help you in locating another course that best suits your needs. In either case, YOU must contact the parish office prior to the above mentioned dates and register for either the parish course or get approval for another course outside of the parish.

### **Step Three: Deciding The Type of Ceremony You Wish to Celebrate**

If you are a PRACTICING Catholic (which means regular attendance at Sunday Mass), we suggest that you celebrate your marriage with a FULL Mass. If you are NOT a PRACTICING Catholic or you are marrying someone who is NON-CATHOLIC, there will be a marriage LITURGY with both readings, exchange of vows but NO EUCHARIST.

If the marriage ceremony is celebrated during a FULL Mass, you may wish to inform the members of your bridal party who are NON-CATHOLIC that they may NOT receive the Eucharist during the marriage celebration, as the Eucharist is the ULTIMATE SYMBOL of our unity as Catholics. Unfortunately, that unity does not yet exist with members of other Christian faiths (i.e. Anglicans, Baptists, etc.)

### **Requirements Respecting Marriage in the Province of Ontario**

In the province of Ontario, a marriage may be celebrated and solemnized in two ways: either under the authority of a CIVIL LICENSE or by a PUBLICATION OF BANNES.

#### **Civil License**

A CIVIL LICENSE to marry may be obtained from the issuer of MARRIAGE LICENSES at the office of the MUNICIPAL CLERK. At least one party of the proposed marriage must apply IN PERSON and return the completed form signed by both parties. A marriage license is VALID for use anywhere in the province of Ontario for a period of THREE (3) months from the date of issue. A FEE for the license varies from year to year.

We suggest you apply for your marriage license at least one (1) month prior to your marriage but no more than three (3) months prior.

#### **Publication of Banns**

A marriage may also be solemnized under the authority of the PUBLICATION OF BANNES when BOTH parties to the proposed marriage ATTEND and WORSHIP regularly at their own church. Both parties of the proposed marriage must be PERSONALLY known by the person performing the ceremony (the parish priest). There is NO FEE for the PUBLICATION of the BANNES.

If you had a previous marriage dissolved or annulled, you may NOT marry under the authority of the PUBLICATION OF BANNES. At all times, it is at the discretion of the pastor when the publication of banns will serve as the authority for a specific marriage ceremony.

#### **Step Four: Planning The Ceremony**

##### Who Will Officiate at Your Ceremony

Once your initial interview is complete and the proposed date is set, you must choose one of the priests from our parish to officiate at your ceremony. Although we will be as flexible as possible, please be aware that the priest you request may not be available for that day due to schedule conflicts, vacations, prior commitments, etc.

##### What Should You Wear - Attire

We WILL not define for you what is appropriate dress when it comes to your marriage ceremony. We trust your better judgment when it comes to the cut and length of your bridal attire. If you are unsure or uncertain as to what is appropriate, PLEASE ASK.

A few suggestions for your consideration may be helpful: firstly, what may be appropriate for an evening dinner dance and reception, may NOT be acceptable for worship in the house of God. When in doubt, err on the side of modesty. Secondly, even on the hottest days of the summer, our Church is always air-conditioned and quite cool so wraps or shawls for your shoulders may be a practical consideration.

##### What The Church Will and Should Wear – Church Decorations

A MAXIMUM of FOUR (4) arrangements are allowed to be placed in the Church for your wedding ceremony. You may wish to leave a flower arrangement in the Church as a remembrance to our parish community of your ceremony. We will provide the PEW BOWS down the center aisle of the Church. These bows are beautifully decorated and designed in white to compliment all wedding ceremonies. The use of the UNITY CANDLE has been stopped throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto.

##### What is Not Permitted in The Church

- NO white runner down the main aisle. NO EXCEPTIONS. It is a safety hazard.
- NO confetti, rice, flowers or petals may be thrown inside or out of the church.
- NO arches of flowers or lit candles in the aisles. These also are dangerous.

##### Photographers and Videos

We expect that you will remember that the Church is a place of worship. Specific areas are designated for the videographers and photographers to work from. We will work with them with regards to getting the best possible photos and remembrances of your special day. Please remind your videographers and photographers that we do not expect them to be disruptive during the service (i.e. excessive movement or talking, etc.)

## Music and Singing

Music plays an important role in the celebration of the wedding ceremony. We have arranged to provide you with three different organists who work with three different vocalists. These people are UNDER CONTRACT with the Church to provide you with music for your ceremony. You MUST use the assigned organist and vocalist of the day when you choose to have music for your ceremony. The reason WHY we insist upon this is so that no one will have to go out and search for musicians and/or vocalists, which would make your wedding planning very difficult. Our organists are the only ones authorized to use equipments and instruments for handling purposes.

You are to deal with organist directly. They charge a separate fee from the suggested Church offering so please inquire about this fee in your conversations. If you choose to have a vocalist, please make those arrangements with the organist. Outside musicians and vocalists are by SPECIAL PERMISSION ONLY from the pastor and this is only given in RARE and EXTREME CASES. Standby fees may apply.

Please refer to the parish office for the schedule to see who is assigned for your particular ceremony date. The following are the three organists assigned to perform weddings at Saint Peter's parish:

- Rosella Di Pede | 905.264.2613
- Fred Perruzza | 905.851.8252 | [fred.perruzza@utoronto.ca](mailto:fred.perruzza@utoronto.ca)
- Steve Pigliacelli | 905.851.8627 | 416. 561.2326 | [spigliacelli@hotmail.com](mailto:spigliacelli@hotmail.com)

It is your responsibility to contact your organist at least 6 weeks prior to your wedding day and arrange a half hour consultation appointment. At this meeting, the music for your ceremony will be finalized. Should you wish to augment the number of musicians at your ceremony i.e. trumpet, violin etc. Please let your organist know, and he/she can arrange it for you.

## Wedding Rehearsals

The wedding rehearsal is normally scheduled for the WEDNESDAY night before the wedding celebration. Please contact the priest who is officiating at your wedding to schedule your rehearsal. Parents, all bridal party members and readers are encouraged to attend this important evening as it will make the wedding day run a lot smoother.


## Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

It is HIGHLY recommended that both the bride and the groom receive the sacrament of reconciliation BEFORE the actual wedding date. Please call the priest who is officiating at your wedding to set up a time and date convenient for all. Of course, everyone involved in the wedding itself is also encouraged to receive this important sacrament prior to the wedding. Arrangements can also be made for this too.

## Church Offerings

The suggested offering for the Church is \$350.00. Cheques may be made payable to SAINT PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH and given to the priest on the night of the wedding rehearsal. Fees for the organists and/or the vocalist should be given to them respectively on the day of the actual ceremony.

Please remember, you are celebrating both a sacrament in the presence of God and a social event in the presence of your friends and loved ones. The above mentioned rules and guidelines have come about after years of experience of celebrating the sacrament of marriage for young couples. They are given to you to help you plan something we hope and pray will be both a blessed day in the eyes of God and a memorable time in the eyes of all who share in your joyous day. If you have any question or concerns, no matter how big or small, please feel free to contact us at the parish office. With prayers for God's choicest blessings.



Fr. Michael Corcione, ofm  
Pastor



Fr. Claudio Moser, ofm  
Associate Pastor, Guardian