



WEDDING PLANNING KIT

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The proper order for planning a wedding in the Catholic Church is that the hall you wish to rent for **your wedding reception not be booked in advance of your meeting with a priest** to plan the wedding in the church. A date for marriage can only be given if and when all necessary documents have been received and approved, documents which prove at the outset that both of you are free to marry.

Those who wish to get married in the Catholic Church should normally contact the parish ***at least one year in advance of the proposed marriage date.***

The purpose of this kit is for couples who are inquiring about marriage in the Catholic Church at St. John Vianney parish. In order for your marriage to take place here you must meet with one of the requirements stated below:

- either one of you or both of you live within the boundaries of St. John Vianney Parish (parish by boundary)
- neither of you live within the boundaries but you consider this parish to be your parish because of regular church attendance here (parish by choice) as a registered parishioner.
- if both of you do not live within the parish boundaries, but feel you have good reason for the marriage to take place here, the Catholic parish where you now live of either one of you must be willing to grant a letter of permission for your marriage to take place here, provided that the priests of St. John Vianney parish are willing to accept that the marriage take place here (permission by your own Catholic pastor and acceptance by one of the priests at St. John Vianney.) A pastor has the right to refuse a marriage in his parish if he sees no reason for the marriage to take place that would legitimize the necessity of marriage in that same parish.

If this is a second marriage for either or both of you, you will have to speak to one of the parish priests to find out what steps are required to proceed with a new marriage in the Catholic Church.

The following expectations apply to all those seeking marriage in the Catholic Church:

- ✚ the Catholic party or parties should be practicing their Catholic faith by regular church attendance and a desire to live a Catholic, Christian way of life or be willing to truly renew their faith in the preparation for marriage by returning to the Church and participating in the sacramental life of the Church
- ✚ be willing to have all of the children born of this marriage baptized and raised in the Catholic faith and by bringing them to church each Sunday
- ✚ be willing to take and complete a mandatory marriage preparation course prior to the proposed marriage date

Your marriage is one of the most important events of your life and therefore, preparing for it is of considerable importance. The parish community of Saint John Vianney is privileged to be a part of this exciting process with you.

It is imperative that your wedding be kept in proper Christian focus. It is fundamentally and primarily a sacrament, and therefore an act of worship. You are making a public commitment to the Christian community and assume the vocation of marriage, i.e., you pledge to live out your married lives as a sign of Christ's commitment to his bride, the Church. This is a serious commitment and your ceremony should reflect this. It should be joyful but never lavish.

The following guidelines are meant to aid you in your preparation and put before you all the requirements of this parish for your marriage celebration. The parish priests and our wedding coordinators will be most happy to help you in any way to plan this important day of your life. Please feel free to discuss any questions, problems or concerns with them.

Before you see a florist about flowers for your wedding, please observe the following guidelines: please...

- NO CANDELABRA OF ANY KIND
- NO FLORAL ARCHES
- NO RUNNERS (plastic or cloth - please read the section on FLOWERS)

Also...

It is the policy of this Archdiocese and, therefore, the policy of this parish that couples wishing to have a Mass at their wedding should both be "practicing" Catholics. However, for more information regarding this issue please speak to the officiating priest.

DONATIONS & FEE EXPECTATIONS

Organist/Cantor	\$200.00
Parish donation	\$500.00

All money should be brought to the church at the time of the rehearsal and **not on the day of the wedding**. Your wedding day will bring enough concerns and things to remember by itself.

If you should have any questions at any time in the planning of your wedding day, please don't hesitate to call the parish and ask to speak to one of the priests who will be presiding at your wedding. We're here to help.

Marriage Instruction ~

No marriage can be celebrated in the Catholic Church until the couple has completed a course of instruction on marriage.

Certificate of Marriage Preparation Course ~

Proof of completion of a marriage preparation course is required. Please bring the certificate to the priest as soon as you receive it so that it can be placed in your marriage file. Most marriage prep. courses are done online. For example...

[Joy-Filled Marriage, Certification Course – Ascension](#)

There are also weekend courses available, but you have to book early. The address and phone number is as follows:

Queen of Apostles 1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, Ontario. L5H 2C3 (905) 278-5229

The Minister of Marriage ~

Often the parish priest with whom arrangements are made for the wedding and conducts your first interview will be the minister who witnesses your vows at the marriage ceremony. Usually a priest from outside the parish may officiate at a marriage only if he is a relative. If this is the case, Canon Law dictates that such a priest should seek written delegation from the pastor of Saint John Vianney. Should a priest who is a close friend of the family be invited to the wedding, he is most welcome to concelebrate with the presiding priest. Please let us know ahead of time if this is the case.

Documents Required ~

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

The Catholic party/parties must obtain a 'recent copy of baptism for the purpose of marriage' from the church in which they were baptized. All non-Catholic parties who have been baptized in one of the many mainline Christian denominations must bring in a copy of their baptismal certificate, either from that church's baptismal register or the original baptismal certificate itself.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Only the couple can procure a marriage license. These licenses can be obtained at any city hall in the province of Ontario. In this province, a license is valid for only 3 months from the date of issuance. If you are not married within the three months, the marriage license expires. As soon as a wedding license has been obtained it should be brought to the parish office. There is nothing on the license that the couple should fill out. The office administrator will prepare it for use on the wedding day.

Spiritual Preparation ~

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

PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

Since the wedding ceremony centers on the couple, it is only natural that both should participate actively in planning the details. The couple is given the opportunity to choose from a number of prescribed scripture passages, prayers and blessings to make their marriage celebration more personal. Your selections of readings and other details may be finalized with the parish priest at a time closer to the wedding date.

Lectors (readers) ~

The couple may choose mature persons to proclaim the first and/or the second readings, as well as the general intercessions (prayers of the faithful). The readers should be baptized Christians and be able to proclaim the readings as God's Word to us, clearly and devoutly.

Music ~

Music is an important part of the wedding celebration and therefore, it should reflect its sacredness. (*Please see the attached pamphlet MUSIC AT YOUR WEDDING*)

It is the responsibility of the couple to contact our organist to make arrangements for music at the wedding. Outside musicians are not allowed without permission. Our parish organist and choir director is **Marilyn Reesor**. To contact her by email would be the best method of communication as she is not always at the church. Her email address is **mreesor@archtoronto.org**.

Flowers ~

Flowers for the wedding ceremony are the sole responsibility of the couple.

Please keep the floral arrangements simple. Please, no floral arches, no candlesticks or large floral candle stands, as these are not permitted. No elaborate or overly-large pedestals are allowed, as these tend to block the view of the congregation and detract from the solemnity of the liturgy. Flowers for the Church are considered an offering in thanksgiving for what God has given. It might be suggested that you leave at least one bouquet of flowers for the Church. Weddings during the Advent and Lenten seasons are not encouraged.

All flowers should be delivered to the church on the morning of the wedding and not just minutes before the ceremony. On most Saturdays our parish church is locked so you are asked to call the parish office earlier in the week to ensure that there will be someone here to meet the person bringing the flowers. If you wish to add bows etc. to the pews, you may do this at the rehearsal (if time permits), or the morning of the wedding.

Confetti ~

The use of rice, confetti, bird seed, flower petals, etc., are not allowed for use in the church or on the church property as these can make a mess of our carpets and create a cleanup for the caretaker.

Runners ~

It is the firm policy of this parish that runners of any kind are not permitted.

Rehearsal ~

The rehearsal is not a time to plan your wedding ceremony. By this time all major details and your wishes will have been arranged with the presiding priest as well as the wedding coordinator. The rehearsal is primarily the time for you to make a “dry run” of the ceremony; where to stand, how to line up, when to move, etc. It is important that you have booked a wedding rehearsal date and time that everyone who needs to be there will be on time and ready to go. This also strongly applies to the day of the wedding itself.

THE WEDDING DAY

As far as starting on time for the wedding, there is no such thing as the bride arriving “fashionably late”. Though this may be a tradition sometimes in the world, it is not the etiquette of the Church. Please be on time.

PHOTOGRAPHY -

It is always a good idea to remind your photographer that the wedding must start at the time you have chosen. Please read and pass on to your photographer the copy of

Photography - Guidelines at St. John Vianney (see attached).

It might be a good idea to have either a family member or a friend assist on the day of the wedding after the ceremony in picking up all empty flower boxes, programs (*if these were used*) and check the pews to make sure that the guests have not left something behind.

Your Wedding Music

Choosing Appropriate Music for the Sacrament of Marriage

During this time of preparation for your joyous celebration of the sacrament of marriage, we wish to help you plan the music for your wedding liturgy. Like all the Church's sacramental celebrations, the wedding liturgy directs our hearts and minds to the praise and glory of God. The music must thus be chosen with care, according to the sound liturgical principles. The guidelines that we use to select music for marriage are the same as those that we use the Sunday Eucharist.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

We recommend that you discuss music with your parish priest when you first meet with him about your wedding. He can answer your initial questions and inform you of any parish policy regarding wedding music and the use of musicians other than your parish music leaders. He can also give you the name(s) of parish music leaders who will help you choose the music for your wedding, as they are familiar with both the policies and the musical repertoire of your own parish. They will also assist you in securing musician and a cantor.

WHY MUSIC AT WEDDINGS?

Music is one of the finest expressions of joy that comes from the heart. It speaks a language that is understood by all cultures and traditions. Music unites a people of faith in praise and thanksgiving to God, who touches our lives in so many wonderful ways. It fosters the ecclesial dimension of a celebration, bonding individuals into a community, heightening their sense of worshipping as a people, the people of God. Unity of voices brings about unity of hearts. It helps people to express with more meaning and conviction the words of the liturgy especially the acclamations such as "Alleluia" or "Amen". Music gives deeper meaning to prayer – to sing well is to pray twice.

By choosing to be married in the Church, we are expressing your desire for a sacred sacramental celebration of your vows of mutual and lasting fidelity. The music that you choose should lift the congregation's hearts in praise and thanksgiving for this joyful beginning of your lives together.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

It is important to keep in mind that your wedding music is first and foremost prayer, worship of God. For this reason, secular music however expressive of love, is not used in Catholic wedding liturgies. If you are unsure of the origin or context of a particular piece of music, your parish music leader will be able to help you.

Secondly, the selection of music in the wedding liturgy should respect the role of the assembly as full, active participants in the liturgy. The music chosen should enable the believing community to express the faith of the universal Church. Your parish music leaders will help you to select music that will foster this expression. The music chosen for the wedding liturgy should be familiar to those attending the wedding. Be sure to inform your music leader if your wedding involves another religion or Christian denomination so that music may be chosen from a common repertoire. The primary resource for your wedding music is normally your parish hymnal, a music programme should be provided so that the assembly will be able to participate.

If a programme is used, copyright laws must be followed. Your parish musician will be able to assist you in obtaining reprint permission.

PLACE OF MUSIC IN THE RITE

There are several places in the wedding liturgy where music is appropriate. Your parish music leader(s) or priest will help you choose music in some or all of the following parts of the liturgy, especially the parts in bold print.

ProceSSIONal

Gathering Hymn

Lord, have mercy/Glory to God

Responsorial Psalm

Gospel Acclamation

Music during the preparation of the gifts

***Holy, Holy**

***Memorial Acclamation**

***Great Amen**

Lord's Prayer

***Lamb of God**

***Communion song** (during the communion procession)

***Hymn of praise after communion**

Music during the signing of the register Closing Hymn/Recessional

(*) Indicates places in the wedding liturgy where there may be music when the Rite of Marriage is celebrated with the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Mass).

PHOTOGRAPHY

Guidelines at St. John Vianney

A wedding is a religious event when held in the Church. In keeping with the dignity of a church wedding and with reverence for the house of God in which the marriage takes place, the following guidelines are to be observed. Please make sure you discuss the church policy on photography with your professional photographer so that they may know what to expect when they take pictures at St. John Vianney Church.

The church is not a studio. Photographers are not to move church or sanctuary furniture around. There should be no disruption or disturbance of the ceremony by the photographer during the ceremony.

Photographers should arrive at least 15 minutes before the wedding is to begin in order to be prepared and ready for the ceremony and in order to receive any specific instructions from the priest or deacon presiding at the wedding. Most photographers are very cooperative and will follow these instructions.

Video photography must take place only in a specific and designated area of the church and with a fixed tripod. Only one video camera is permitted. The video camera is not to be moved around during the ceremony, especially during the readings, the gospel, and the homily and during the prayers of the faithful. The aforementioned specified times are when the congregation is focused on the proclamation of God's Word without distraction. However, video and still photography can be accomplished with the photographer discretely moving around during the processional, the exchange of vows and rings, the signing of the register and during the recessional.

All extra lighting, where hand-held or stationary is not permitted.

All photographers and video operators should respect the sanctuary area of the church, that is, the area at the front of the church with the altar at the centre and surrounded by steps on three sides. Photographs may be taken without flash from the back of the church or balcony at any time. The use of artificial light is not permitted.

These guidelines may seem harsh and unbending; however, photography at weddings can be a source of anxiety for all persons involved at times. It is best that one clearly knows what is expected of them, what is permitted and what is not. This prevents any embarrassing situations. After all, what is most important about your wedding is not how much of it is captured on film, rather, it is an actual, live event to be witnessed and experienced by all involved. In this way, photography can enhance, but should never hinder, good liturgy and a great moment in the lives of couples and families brought together in the celebration of human and divine love, the celebration of Marriage.

WEDDING OUTLINE

Wedding With a Mass

For those preparing a program for the wedding day, the following information will give you an outline of a wedding that is celebrated with a Mass.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession
Rite of Welcome by the Presider
Penitential Rite
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading
Psalm Response (sung)
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Declaration of Consent
Exchange of Vows
Blessing of Rings
Exchange of Rings
Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory
Prayer Over the Gifts
Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer
Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Exchange of a Sign of Peace

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Prayer of the Mass
Signing of the Register
Prayer of Blessing
Introduction of the Couple
Recessional Hymn

WEDDING OUTLINE

Wedding **Without a Mass**

For those preparing a program for the wedding day, the following information will give you an outline of a wedding that is celebrated without a Mass.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession
Rite of Welcome by the Presider
Penitential Rite
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading
Psalm Response (sung)
Second Reading (optional)
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Declaration of Consent
Exchange of Vows
Blessing of Rings
Exchange of Rings
Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions)

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Prayer of the Mass
Signing of the Register
Prayer of Blessing
Introduction of the Couple