



# ST. ANDREW'S PARISH OAKVILLE

Diocese of Hamilton

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## Guidelines for the Celebration of Marriage

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**This brochure offers important information for the celebration of Marriage at St. Andrew's Church, Oakville. Please read it carefully and retain for future reference.**

*Address:*

**47 Reynolds St.**

**Oakville, Ontario L6J 3J9**

**905-844-3303**

[comahony@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:comahony@hamiltondiocese.com)

Rev. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor

Mrs. Marie LeCoure-Jeans

Administrative Assistant

*Sunday Mass Times*

**Saturday 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 9:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**12:00 p.m.**

*Reconciliation*

**Saturday 4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR OF ST. ANDREW'S

*Dear friends,*

*Congratulations to both of you on your engagement to be married. You have embarked on a journey of preparation for this wonderful Sacrament that is a living sign of the love of God among us. At St. Andrew's Parish we regard your wedding day as a ceremony of celebration in your lives and in the life of our parish community.*

*Marriage is a relationship of love and commitment between a man and a woman which is at once most sacred and most serious: most sacred in that its deepest meaning can be understood only in reference to God, and most serious in that the commitment required of the couple binds them for life in a relationship that is so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence their whole future.*

*Christian marriage is never a private matter! Rather, it is a communal celebration to which you invite your family and*

*friends. For Roman Catholics marriage is celebrated within the faith community – of which the church building is its visible sign. Since you wish to be married in the Catholic Church, you will be asked to prepare and celebrate your marriage in a manner that is consistent with the beliefs, practices and ritual of the Catholic Church and St. Andrew's Parish.*

*This brochure outlines the guidelines and expectations of the St. Andrew's Parish with regard to preparation for marriage, the wedding ceremony, and life in the parish community.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Rev. Cornelius (Con) O'Mahony  
Pastor*

## **CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE – A VOCATION**

The time of engagement is a privileged and grace-filled opportunity for you to prepare well before a lifetime of marriage. It is also a time for you to reflect upon and deepen your faith. For Roman Catholics this means growth in a life of prayer, participation with the parish community in the liturgical life of the community, and a commitment to follow the teachings of Christ and His Church.

Roman Catholics believe that marriage is a *call* from God. Husbands and wives respond to their baptismal commitment by loving and serving each other in the Sacrament of Marriage. God's grace strengthens you – not only on the day of your wedding – but every day of your married life. Couples are encouraged to invoke this grace through prayer – both individually and as a couple and within the faith community.

## **THE PLACE OF YOUR WEDDING**

The proper place for your wedding celebration is the Catholic parish of either the bride or the groom. The parish priest of your parish is responsible for your marriage preparation and celebration.

Couples – one or both of whom are members of St. Andrew's Parish – can rightly expect that the Pastor of the parish or one of its Deacons will assist them in preparation and preside at the marriage ceremony.

Couples from outside of St. Andrew's Parish, but members of a parish in the Diocese of Hamilton, will be asked to return to their own parish where the pastor will assist them with preparation. He will also agree to either personally preside over the celebration of the ceremony at St. Andrew's or grant the Pastor or Deacons of the parish permission to do so. Couples will further agree to abide by all the usual practices of the St. Andrew's parish related to marriage.

Couples from parishes outside the Diocese of Hamilton will also be referred back to their parish priest for preparation.

The Pastor of St. Andrew's or one of the Deacons of the parish will preside at the ceremony in the Church.

The paperwork and any necessary permissions from the parish of a couple who are preparing for their marriage at St. Andrew's must be completed no later than six months before the marriage date.

**There is an additional cost – in the form of a donation – for couples from outside of St. Andrew's Parish. This donation is in lieu of making regular financial contributions to the parish on a weekly basis. A charitable receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for this donation at the end of the fiscal year if the couple request it.**

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS**

All couples celebrating marriage at St. Andrew's must participate in an approved **Marriage Preparation Course** offered by the parish, through the Diocese of Hamilton or through the diocese or parish in which they reside.

All couples will be invited to participate in a **Wedding Workshop** at St. Andrew's during which all the details of planning the wedding ceremony will be discussed. Couples will receive the date for this workshop when their marriage is confirmed by the parish office.

## **MUSICIANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

The musicians that you choose will help you to select music appropriate for your wedding. You will need to have a Song Leader and an Instrumentalist. **One of these people must be a member of the music ministry at St. Andrew's Parish.** Notes with regard to music for your wedding are listed in The Order of Christian Marriage booklet.

At a wedding, the Song Leader invites and encourages the assembly to celebrate with you through song at your ceremony. The Song Leader usually acts as Cantor as well. You may want to ask your Song Leader to also sing as a soloist before the

ceremony, and while the register is being signed.

Only Sacred or Classical pieces of music may be played or sung at the wedding celebration. Secular music is not appropriate at any time during the wedding liturgy.

## **NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION**

### ***Baptismal Certificates ...***

Catholics who seek to be married in the Catholic Church are required to provide proof of their Catholic baptism in the form of a certificate issued by the parish in which they were baptized. The certificate should be issued within six months of the date of arranging the celebration of marriage.

Baptized Christians who seek to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church are also asked to provide proof of their baptism.

### ***Marriage License ...***

At St. Andrew's Parish couples require a Civil Marriage License issued by any City Hall in the Province of Ontario within three (3) months of the date of marriage. This Civil License should be submitted to the Parish Office at least one (1) month prior to the celebration of marriage.

### ***Other Documents ...***

In cases where there has been a prior bond of marriage no date may be established for a new marriage until freedom to marry has been established.

## **THE WEDDING CELEBRATION**

All weddings at St. Andrew's Parish follow the *Rite of Marriage* of the Catholic Church. A booklet of options for the celebration will be presented at the Wedding Workshop. Decorations and flowers must be appropriate for the liturgical season. Also, please be aware that certain popular customs, cultural traditions, and modes of dress may not be appropriate for a Catholic ceremony.

## **Introductory Rites**

The couple will be greeted at the front doors of the Church. They may be escorted to the sanctuary by their parents and by friends who form the wedding party.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

Your chosen readers will proclaim passages of Sacred Scripture chosen from the resource provided at the wedding workshop. Please ask people of faith to proclaim the Scriptures.

## **Liturgy of Marriage**

Most weddings will be celebrated within the context of the Liturgy of the Word and not with Mass.

*Marriage outside Mass* – is used when two Catholics marry, or when a Roman Catholic marries a baptized Christian. In that situation our common baptism is emphasized.

When a Roman Catholic marries a baptized member of another Christian tradition we emphasize the sacredness of the union blessed by God.

When a marriage is celebrated with a Roman Catholic and a non-baptized person, the Priest or deacon will work with you to prepare a Liturgy of the Word service that is sensitive to the needs of the couple and their family and friends.

*Marriage within Mass* – when the bride and groom are in the habit of attending church on a regular basis and if there is an assurance that their family members and guests will participate fully in the responses of the Mass, a marriage may take place during Mass. It is the practice in the Roman Catholic Church that only Roman Catholics may receive Holy Communion.

## **Concluding Rites**

Once the couple have signed the license and marriage register, the priest will offer the final blessing and the couple will lead their family and friends through the main doors of the church.

## **BROCHURES & SERVICE GUIDES**

We do not encourage the use of brochures or service guides for weddings. If they are to be used the guide must be approved by the presiding Priest or Deacon before it is printed.

## **WEDDING PLANNER**

If you have chosen to engage a “wedding planner” please note that the presiding Priest or Deacon is solely responsible for the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. The wedding planner has no role at either the rehearsal or the ceremony.

## **SUGGESTED OFFERINGS**

**The normal fee for a wedding service at St. Andrew’s Parish is \$350.00.**

In a situation where other services are required of the parish or to cover any additional costs, an additional fee will be determined with the couple.

Since there is always some element of haste and confusion on the day of the rehearsal and on the wedding day, the fees for the church are brought to the office with the Marriage Licence one **month before the date of the wedding**. Cheques should be made out to St. Andrew’s Parish and will be deposited with the bank when received.

**Couples from outside St. Andrew’s Parish will be asked for an additional donation of \$250.00** when a date for marriage has been confirmed. A receipt for Income Tax purposes will be issued for that donation at the end of the fiscal year.

The cost of the marriage preparation course provided by the parish or the Diocese of Hamilton is not included in the wedding fees.

## **SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ...**

**Wedding Rehearsals** are scheduled for the mutual convenience of the couple and the Priest or Deacon presider. Generally, rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and will last approximately 30 minutes.

Only those people directly involved in the celebration need attend. No photography or video may be taken during the rehearsal.

**Professional photographers & video** personnel may be engaged by the couple to record the celebration but should speak to the priest or deacon before the liturgy begins so that there is no confusion about what is permitted. Invited guests may take pictures from where they are sitting. Flash photography is not allowed.

**Decorations and flowers** can be kept to a minimum. Most couples choose to have a large floral arrangement placed in front of the Altar. Bows and floral decorations for the pews are allowed but must be hung over the arm of the pew. Any damage caused by adhesive products will result in a cleaning fee which will be passed on to the couple. For insurance purposes, we do not permit the use of runners or candelabra. The use of artificial flowers or plants is discouraged. All deliveries to the church for your wedding must be made at least 60 minutes before the announced time of the wedding. Releasing birds or butterflies and the throwing of flower petals, confetti or rice is not permitted in the church or on church property.

**Punctuality** is very important! The wedding ceremony will begin at the announced time – this is because your wedding may not be the only event that day in the church. In the case of a late start parts of the liturgy may be abbreviated and/or omitted.

**The Wedding Banquet.** The parish Priest and Deacons appreciate the desire of a couple and their families to have them attend their wedding banquet and to say grace. Because of the weekend schedule at St. Andrew’s, this is not possible but we will be happy to provide couples with a prayer for their wedding banquet which a member of the wedding party or family will be able to lead.