



The Celebration of Marriage

Merciful Redeemer Parish

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Your Wedding at Merciful Redeemer

The Catholic Church rejoices in your decision to marry. We want to journey with you in your preparations and assist you in growing in your love for each other, as well as in your relationship with Christ.

Each person is called to live out their faith in their marriages and lives as best they can. **Merciful Redeemer 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 as part of your preparation.**

Booking Dates for Marriage

In order to book a date for your wedding at Merciful Redeemer, you must contact a priest at least **one year** in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Early notification allows for ample time to register, participate in a mandatory marriage preparation course and gather/complete all necessary documents and required forms. **We advise you not to book any halls before you have met with the priest and been given a confirmed date.**

Wedding Times

Our wedding times are set for Saturdays, and take place at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. Weddings are **not** allowed on Sundays according to the laws of the Local Church. Other days of the week can be considered. Weddings are typically not celebrated during the Lenten season.

Marriage Preparation Courses

Marriage Preparation courses are required for all couples anticipating marriage in our parish. These courses are offered at our parish in the Spring and Fall. **It is your responsibility to book and attend one of these courses.**

Please contact the parish office for more details.

If you are presently in a common-law relationship, or legally divorced, a special course through the Toronto Archdiocesan Office is required.

The Minister of Marriage

Often, the priest with whom arrangements are made for the wedding and who conducts your first interview, will be the minister that witnesses your vows at the marriage ceremony. However, this is not always possible. Visiting priests/deacons, especially close relatives, are always welcome celebrants or concelebrants at your wedding. This is provided that permission is first obtained through the Chancery Office and the parish.

Required Documents

A. Baptismal Certificates

Every Catholic being married **must obtain an updated/ current Certificate of Baptism (issued within the year).**

The parish of baptism should be contacted in due time and one

should ask 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 of the original.

B. Certificate of Marriage Preparation Course

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

C. Marriage License

All couples must obtain a marriage license. These licenses can be obtained at any City Hall in Ontario. A birth certificate or valid passport is needed. One person may pick up and return the application form, provided they have proper identification for the fiancée. In this province, a license is valid for only 90 days.

As soon as a license has been obtained, it should be brought to the parish office at least two weeks prior to your wedding.

Please do not enter any details on the marriage license.

D. Previous Marriages or below the age of 21

The following documents are required:

1. A death certificate or a divorce decree.
2. An official confirmation from the proper ecclesiastical court with regard to the dissolution or nullity of the marriage.
3. A copy of the previous marriage license (Long Form).
4. Consent of the parents or guardians is required to enter marriage legally if one of the partners is under 21.

Please note that a wedding date will not be set until proper permissions are obtained.

Spiritual Preparation

In order to receive the Sacrament of Marriage in a fruitful manner, it is earnestly recommended that the couple prepare themselves spiritually through prayer, scriptural meditation, regular participation in the Holy Eucharist (Sunday Mass) and the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession).

You can book a confession prior to your wedding by calling one of our parish priests.

fee

The fee for celebrating a wedding at Merciful Redeemer is \$500.00. The fee should be brought to the parish office in the form of a cheque drawn in favor of Merciful Redeemer Parish.

If paying in cash, kindly note on the envelope, the name and address of the person to be credited at the end of the year.

Planning the Liturgy

Since the wedding ceremony centers around the couple, it is only natural that both should participate actively in the planning. The couple is given the opportunity to choose a number of prescribed scriptural passages, prayers and blessings to make the marriage celebration more personal.

Please finalize your choices with the presiding priest or deacon.

Lectors (Readers)

The couple may choose readers to proclaim the first and second readings, as well as the General Intercessions (the Responsorial Psalm is sung).

These readers should be either Catholic or Baptized Christians and must be able to proclaim the readings clearly and devoutly.

Altar Servers

The parish usually provides servers for a wedding Mass. However, friends and/or relatives who are already altar servers may serve at the wedding. If they plan to do so, the presiding priest must be informed beforehand.

Music

Music is an important part of the wedding celebration and should reflect the dignity and sacredness of your celebration. **For this reason, secular songs and show tunes are not allowed.**

It is strongly recommended that your wedding music be provided by Merciful Redeemer's own musicians. Please do not book trios, quartets or harpists for your wedding liturgy.

It is the responsibility of the couple to make the necessary arrangements **by contacting one of our parish musicians:**

Kenisha Alemao (647) 546-5547

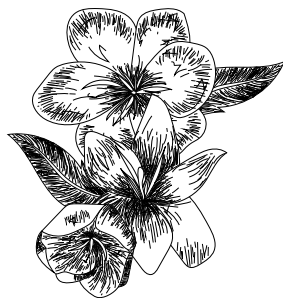
Edlyn De Souza (647) 784-8580

Kielon Gerra (416) 526-6361

Hyacinth Kim (647) 994-6283

Mark Joseph (647) 292-2112

Renee Ardiente ardientesistersmusic@gmail.com



Payment of the musicians is your responsibility and should be done before the celebration of your wedding.

If, for a special reason, you wish to have a family member or friend provide music, please consult the presiding priest well in advance to receive permission.

Bridal Party

We strongly recommend that no member of the bridal party be less than five years of age. We also trust that all members will be properly attired for the wedding, in order to reflect the dignity and sacredness of the event and the space within which it is held.

flowers

Flowers for the wedding are optional, and the sole responsibility of the bridal party. Florists should be advised to contact the parish office regarding delivery of flowers.

Flowers are not allowed to be placed on the altar. The priest has final say on the location of any floral arrangements.

Confetti, Runners, Arches, Bubbles, Rose Petals & Ballons

The use of rice, confetti, arches, rose petals, balloons, bubblemakers or any other material is not allowed in the church or on church property as they constitute a hazard to parishioners, and a nuisance for clean-up. Wedding runners are also not allowed in the aisles of the church.

Witnesses: Usually the Best Man & Maid of Honor — names and addresses required.

Rehearsal

Please arrange a time for the rehearsal of your wedding by emailing secretary@mercifulredeemer.org or calling the parish office. Kindly note that rehearsals are not done on the weekends.

All those who are in the wedding party or taking part in the liturgy are expected to attend. **Please be on time!**

Photography / Videography

A wedding is indeed a memorable event. However, the marriage ceremony is a sacred event that takes place in the house of God. In keeping with the dignity of a church wedding and reverence for God's house, please have your designated photographer or videographer speak with the priest **at least 15 minutes** prior to your wedding. This is in order to go over any instructions or restrictions.

No photographer is permitted to be in or walk across the sanctuary during the ceremony. No photographic equipment may be placed in the sanctuary. Camera drones and selfie-sticks are also not permitted in the church.

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 or postpone the ceremony.**

Parish Hall

We do not rent out our Parish Hall.

*We, at Merciful Redeemer Parish,
wish you God's blessings as you
begin your married life with God as
centre of your lives.*

