



St. Ambrose Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Machacek, PASTOR

782 Browns Line

Etobicoke, ON M8W 3W2

Guidelines for Couples Preparing for Marriage at St. Ambrose

Congratulations on your engagement! If you wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Ambrose, here are some basic points:

- 1) The Sacrament of Marriage can be celebrated between 2 baptized Catholics or between 1 Catholic and a person of another Christian denomination or a different religion.
- 2) If either party was previously married, whether in a civil or religious ceremony, no date can be set until you have met with the Pastor. In such cases, the Bishop's office must be consulted.
- 3) It is expected that 1 (one) year's notice be given in advance of the requested marriage date. The bride or groom must reside within the parish boundaries or be formally registered with the parish.

Meeting with the Pastor: Couples must first meet with Fr. Michael and complete the Archdiocesan Prenuptial form. Information needed includes basic identity information, place of baptism (and confirmation), full names of parents, and their addresses, and where the parents were born. Please contact Fr. Michael at fr.michael@live.ca to arrange a meeting. This meeting will take up to 45 minutes. There will also be a 2nd meeting with Fr. Michael to go over the logistics of the wedding celebration, including readings, entrance procession, etc. This meeting will be held about 2 months before the wedding date.

Baptism Certificates: Any Roman Catholic must supply a **NEW** copy of their baptism certificate – note that original copies are not accepted. To get such a copy, please contact your church of baptism. For other Christians, an original copy of their baptism certificate is acceptable.

Dates and times of Celebrations: Weddings are allowed to take place on any day of the week, except for Sundays, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Ash Wednesday or during Holy Week. If the wedding is to be held on Saturday, the appropriate time would be 1 pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm or 2:30 pm. Before you book your hall, please confirm with Fr. Michael that your date is available.

Marriage Celebration with Mass: For this to happen, both persons need to be both practicing Catholics who attend mass regularly. Such celebrations are approximately 45 minutes long.

Sacrament of Marriage Celebration without mass: Such celebrations are held when one person is not Catholic or else if both are Catholic but not attending regularly. Such celebrations are about 25- 30 minutes long.

Music: at the initial meeting, you can speak to Fr. Michael about the arranging of music with our parish musicians.

Photography: Photos (with flash) are allowed by a photographer, but he/she is not allowed to come up into the sanctuary during the wedding. Due to the tight nature of the layout of the church, videographers are discouraged.

Tel: (416) 251-8282

Fax: (416) 251-4400

E-mail: stambroseET@archtoronto.org



St. Ambrose Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Machacek, PASTOR

782 Browns Line

Etobicoke, ON M8W 3W2

Confessions: If the bride and groom are Catholic or if just one is Catholic, you are strongly encouraged receive the Sacrament of Confession prior to Wedding Ceremony. Confessions at St. Ambrose are held every Saturday from 3:45pm to 4:15pm.

Dress Code: Please do remember that you are in a church. Thus all members of the bridal party should be addressed appropriately.

Unity Candle: Unity candles are not allowed as they are not part of the ceremony. We suggested having it at your reception.

Flowers and decorations and other items: Flowers should be delivered approximately ½ hour before the time of the wedding ceremony. All flowers **MUST be removed** after the celebration .

Aisle runner / carpet is forbidden as guests can trip. Also, no flower petals can be scattered on the aisle are forbidden for the same reason. In additions, please no rice or confetti outside church.

Behaviour guidelines in the church:

Please remind your guest in advance that chewing gum in the church is forbidden. Please also remind them that Cellular phones should not be used in the church, and we kindly ask that they be turned off upon entering the church. • Loud talking in the entrance and body of the church is strongly discouraged. St. Ambrose parish is a place of prayer and worship, so silence is observed.

Time: Groom and ushers should be at the church ½ hour before the time of the ceremony, and the bridal party should arrive 10 minutes before, to ensure that the celebration starts on time.

Rehearsals: The wedding rehearsal must take place at least 2 days before the celebration. The date and time must be established in consultation with the Pastor, who will lead the rehearsal. A rehearsal takes about 30 minutes.

Marriage License: The couple must obtain a marriage license from the Province of Ontario in advance. Marriage licenses are only good for 90 days after they are issued. Thus, the couple need to make arrangements about 2.5 months in advance. Once the couple have obtained the license, they are to hand it to Fr. Michael (along with the mailing envelope). For information on obtaining such a license, please go to www.ontario.ca/page/getting-married

Stipend: The donation to St. Ambrose Parish for your wedding is \$400. You can pay by cash or by cheque. This donation is eligible for an income tax receipt. Please place the cash or cheque in an envelope and then hand it in together with your marriage license to the parish office or Fr. Michael.

Tel: (416) 251-8282

Fax: (416) 251-4400

E-mail: stambroseET@archtoronto.org



St. Ambrose Catholic Church

Rev. Michael Machacek, PASTOR
782 Browns Line
Etobicoke, ON M8W 3W2

Marriage Preparation Course: It is mandatory for couple to take an approved Catholic Marriage preparation course in advance of the wedding. Suggested locations include –

Catholic Family Services of Toronto – 416.921.1163 www.cfstoronto.com

Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre Mississauga (for a 1 weekend course) 905.278.5229

P.S. Once you have finished the course, please submit to Fr. Michael the Course completion certificate.