

Holy Spirit Parish

10827-24th Street SW

Calgary, Alberta

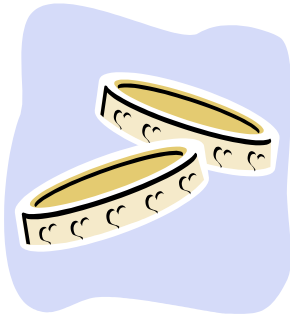
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Information for your Wedding Celebration



“Henceforth, you will belong entirely to each other, you will be one in mind and one in affection.”

Pastor: Fr. Jack Pereira - 403-251-3381
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Associate Pastor: Fr. Marino Infante - 403-614-4215
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Deacon: Rev. Mr. Paul Heffernan - 403-874-8858
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Secretary: Sharon MacNeil-Mah - 403-251-3381
info@holyspiritparish.net

Altar Servers' Ministry Rob Eager - 403-281-0966
performancepathways@telus.net

Marriage Team Coordinators: Eileen and Greg Coady - 403- 238-5066
ecoady@telusplanet.net

Music Ministry Ron Fortier - 403-984-2733
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Sponsor Couple: _____ -
 E-mail: _____

Parish Music Ministry:

Parish Music Coordinator: Ron Fortier - 403-984-2733

Organ and Piano:
 Martin Antonini - 403-620-6060
 Peter Exner - 403-238-5235

Leader of Song: Paula Morgan - 403-281-6266
 Peter Exner - 403-238-5235

Piano & Leader of Song:
 Paula Morgan - 403-281-6266
 Peter Exner - 403-238-5235

Marriage in the Catholic Church

The union of man and woman in Christian Marriage is a sign of God's union with the People of God. Therefore, it requires of those who enter into it a complete and unreserved giving of self. But Christ also referred to the love of Marriage to describe his own love for his bride, the Church. This love is lifelong, fruitful and totally faithful.

The desire to live one's faith must be as important as the desire to live with one's spouse; the relationship to God is intimate and demands self-giving in the same way that your relationship with your spouse demands intimacy and self-giving.

The decision to marry is one of the most momentous choices in life. Thus, your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life.

Because the decision to marry is so significant, it demands serious consideration and a fitting preparation. Preparation for this event can be hectic and fun. We hope that your celebration of marriage at Holy Spirit Parish is a happy and memorable event for you and your families and that this day will be one you will always remember as having been "awesome".

The Sacrament of Marriage is an important event for the Church as well. Married couples who are committed to a generous, faithful and life-giving love are one of the clearest and best signs of the love of God.

In order to assist you with your plans regarding the prayer celebration for this special day, Holy Spirit Parish offers the following guidelines:

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

If either the bride or groom has been married before, it will be necessary to demonstrate that you are indeed **free** to marry. This will require some additional consultation and couples in this circumstance should contact the Church at least a year in advance of any proposed wedding date. You must fill in a letter of freedom to marry form, given to you from our office.

Catholic parties **must** have a copy of their Baptismal record (dated within six months prior to the marriage and requested from your parish of baptism): if Confirmation information is not included on the updated baptismal certificate, a copy of their Confirmation record is to be presented. Non-Catholic parties (if they have been baptized) must produce a copy of their Baptismal record.

Each couple must follow a Marriage Preparation Program. This preparation is available through the Parish at a cost of \$100.00. Our program at Holy Spirit Parish follows a sponsor couple model, and is called **For BETTER AND FOREVER**. *If you are planning to do the Marriage Preparation, please, do not forget to pick up your copies of the book from our Parish Office.*

As well, there are other programs (Catholic Family Services, Engaged Encounter) available periodically throughout the city.

Contact our office Secretary Sharon MacNeil-Mah at the Parish Office (251-3381) for further information. The time and money invested in Marriage Preparation are minimal considering their significance for your future and the other monies spent on the wedding.

Civil law requires that every couple intending marriage in the Province of Alberta obtain an Alberta Marriage License. This license can be purchased at any licensing outlet, and is valid for three months.

Saturday weddings can be scheduled only at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. Diocesan policy prohibits weddings beginning later than 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Evening weddings may be celebrated another day of the week, for example, Friday. Weddings are not scheduled on Sunday.

There are some times in the church year when the liturgical calendar discourages or prohibits the celebration of weddings—for example from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Catholic parties **should** celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation sometime within the week or so prior to the marriage. Please make an appointment with the Priest involved in your Marriage documentation, or with the Priest of your choice.

If neither party lives in Holy Spirit Parish, the Pastor of the Parish of residence/membership must be contacted. He will be involved in the preparation process and his permission is necessary before the marriage can take place in Holy Spirit Parish.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY

The Parish will provide you with a booklet "*Together for Life*" which contains all that is necessary for the celebration of the Liturgy of Marriage. The Marriage ceremony may be celebrated within Mass or outside of Mass. The Church calls engaged Catholics to the sacramental nourishment of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, as a fitting preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. If one party is non-Catholic, it is often advisable to have the Marriage ceremony without a Mass.

You will be expected to involve yourselves in the planning of your Marriage Ceremony. This includes the selection of readings, readers, prayers, etc. A planning guide will be provided for your use which is part of the book for Marriage Ceremony "*Together for Life*". As this is the most important part of your day, please spend time reading over and reflecting together on the readings and prayers you select.

Discussing with the Priest some of your reasons for choosing particular selections may assist him in the preparation of the homily for the wedding.

Couples wishing to produce a marriage booklet for the ceremony take responsibility for this.

Entrance Procession: As it is done with all the Liturgical celebrations in the church, only the centre aisle will be used for the procession.

MINISTERS FOR THE CELEBRATION

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the ***bride and groom*** are ministers of the sacrament of marriage to one another; a priest and at least two adult witnesses are also required for civil and church law.

Ordinarily, the Parish Priest or Deacon will preside at weddings in the parish. On occasion, a couple may have a priest friend or relative whom they wish to have preside at the wedding. In this case, once appropriate civil and church permissions have been secured, the priest will have to contact the Parish Priest. Visiting priests will be expected to observe parish customs and policy regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Ordinarily, the Parish Music Ministry will be involved in the music at your wedding. Each couple must have their wedding music approved beforehand by the Parish Music Ministry.

In choosing individual(s) to serve as **lector(s)**, ask persons who have the necessary gifts to proclaim God's Word effectively and reverently.

Normally, servers are not required, but will be provided upon request from the Parish Altar Servers' Ministry.

Ring bearers and flower girls are not ministers, nor are their services required for the celebration of marriage. If you are including such persons, they are to be at least of school age.

MUSIC

At Holy Spirit Parish, music is an integral part of the worshipping community's Liturgical and Sacramental Prayer Celebrations.

The music played and sung at weddings is included to either accompany an action (entering or leaving the church), to proclaim God's Word, or to offer praise to God.

Music unites and brings us together as God's people. At a wedding ceremony we are brought together to worship God and express thanks for the love that is made visible to us as the people of God. It is a celebration not only of those present at the wedding, but of the whole church.

With this in mind, the music that is chosen for your wedding should enable all those assembled to pray and lift their minds and hearts to God.

The music chosen for your wedding, should express a clear relationship to God, and not focus on either the bride or the couple. As a couple, you may have “our song” that you wish to use during the ceremony, but if it does not express God’s love or call us to worship, it is music that should be used at your reception.

There is to be only one processional song. All the ministers, attendants, witnesses, groom and bride will enter the church during this song. A separate hymn/song for the bride is not permitted.

It is appropriate that those assembled be able to participate as fully as possible during the ceremony. This includes singing. Hymns, songs and instrumental music chosen should reflect the purpose of the particular moments in the Liturgy which the music is meant to serve.

Please be aware that there are rules regarding the copying of words and music. It is illegal to violate copyright by photocopying words and/or music without the written permission of the copyright holder. You are responsible for any costs incurred in the purchase of sheet music for musicians and soloist.

Taped music is not permitted. A copy of the “approved music” for your wedding is included with this package.

REHEARSAL

Although the rehearsal is normally scheduled the evening before the wedding, this is not always possible or the wish of the couple. Rehearsals are to be scheduled with the priest or deacon who will be witnessing the marriage.

At the rehearsal, everyone is usually excited and it is often forgotten that some people may not know each other. Please take a few minutes at the beginning to make introductions where they are necessary.

The rehearsal is not a time for musicians (including singers) to practice. It is a simple walkthrough of the marriage ceremony.

In addition to the wedding party, it is important that your **readers** be present to practice in the worship space, with the sound system.

Please to not invite people who are not directly involved with the rehearsal and/or young children to come to the rehearsal “just to watch”.

As there are other commitments for the church and the priest, your consideration is appreciated. **PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR THE REHEARSAL AND THE WEDDING.**

DECORATIONS

Any decorations in the church are the responsibility of the couple. A good rule of thumb is to keep decorations simple and tasteful.

Flowers are not to be placed on the altar, but around the Altar.

If you are using pew bows, they must be attached to elastic, ribbon, or string. **TAPE IS NOT PERMITTED.**

The church can be open on Saturdays to accommodate any extra decorations you may wish to use. Please check to see if there are other activities scheduled in the church on your wedding day.

USE OF CONFETTI, RICE OR BIRDSEED IN OR AROUND THE CHURCH IS NOT ALLOWED.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOFILMING

Your wish to have photos of your wedding is understandable. Designate **ONE** photographer to take pictures in the church. The photographer/videographer is asked to consult with the priest half an hour prior to the ceremony or at the rehearsal, since there are some limitations which he/she is asked to respect.

Photographers are not free to roam about the church during the celebration of the liturgy, nor should flash photography be used.

Photographers and videotape operators are not permitted in the sanctuary area. Videotape equipment may be used but these cameras must remain in one place throughout the liturgy.

No additional lighting may be brought into the church. Photos/videos may be taken from the centre aisle as the procession enters the church and closer photography will be allowed at the signing of the register.

Please, provide your photographer/videographer with a copy of these guidelines.

Your photographer or videographer should check with the Priest/Deacon prior to the ceremony as to setting up any equipment and to refresh the guidelines.

OFFERING

The suggested offering to the church according to the guidelines of the Diocese of Calgary is \$325.00, which should be handed in or mailed to the Parish Office, at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

Offering for the Altar Servers is \$20.00.

The stipend or offering for a musician is \$150.00. (\$250.00 if required to attend the rehearsal).

Audio Video Ministry: The offering for Operator of the video cameras and projectors is \$50.00. (\$75.00 if required to attend the rehearsal).

Any DVD or other material to be used for the celebration will have to be provided by the couple.

Additional stipends are given to singers and/or the leader of song. The offering to musicians and singers should be given directly to the persons concerned.

These guidelines have been established by the Liturgy Committee of Holy Spirit Parish. We offer them to assist you in planning your wedding day and your Marriage. Should you have any questions that are not addressed here, please contact the parish office for assistance.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION TIME-LINE

First Meeting:

- i) Meeting with the Priest for the initial interview and begin the documentation by filling **Form 1A** and set the wedding date. After this meeting, Father will pass on your information to the Marriage Preparation team.
- ii) Meet the Marriage Preparation Team.
- iii) Meet your Sponsor Couple

Second Meeting:

- i) Have completed your workbook and your Sessions with your Sponsor Couple contact the Priest to fill Form 1B to complete the necessary documents.

Documents needed:

- i) Updated baptism certificate, not older than six months (for the Catholic).
- ii) Proof of baptism (for non-Catholic)
- ii) Freedom to marry documents (If applicable: declaration of nullity / declaration of invalidity / divorce certificate).
- iv) Marriage Preparation Course Certificate.
- v) A copy of the selections of the Liturgy.
- vi) Civil marriage license, at least two weeks before the wedding.

Holy Spirit Parish hopes that by sharing this information with you, your preparation and the wedding ceremony will bring great joy to both of you and your families and friends. Our prayers and best wishes for your future life together.