

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Georgetown, Ontario

Celebrating the Rite of Marriage

For Catholics, marriage is a Sacrament - a living sign of Christ's saving action in our lives. In marriage, a man and a woman are joined as husband and wife. The inseparable bond of marriage is a sign of God's love for the Church and for the world.

The decision to marry should be made after much prayer and reflection. The joining together of man and woman in marriage is a response to the loving call of Almighty God.

As a parish community we try our best to support couples during the time of their preparation for marriage. We take the attitude that *the wedding is a day - marriage is a lifetime* to guide us in the various steps of the process. Our goal is to help couples develop the tools and skills needed for a successful, happy, and faith-filled married life.

The following are some commonly asked questions.

Who can be married?

Any Catholic, who is free of a prior bond of marriage, may enter into marriage with another Catholic or someone of another Christian or religious tradition who is also free of a prior bond of marriage. In marriage a man and a woman are joined in the intimate bond of love and life.

Who can be married in Holy Cross Parish?

Anyone who fits the first criteria, and who resides within the territory of the parish - including the adult children of registered parishioners who may not necessarily be living at home. Also, those who regularly attend Sunday Eucharist here, but live outside the territory of the parish, must be registered with the parish for at least six (6) months before any arrangements can be made for a wedding.

A Catholic who lives in another parish community or even in another province or country, must first contact their own parish priest who will be responsible for all necessary documentation and preparations for marriage, only then can a date be arranged for marriage at Holy Cross.

What if I have been married before?

Catholic Church law prohibits us from arranging dates for weddings of people who are not free to marry until the marital situation of each party (whether Catholic or not) has been clarified. Please discuss your particular situation with the parish priest.

How do I "book" a wedding?

Arrangements for marriage can only be made between the parish priest and the couple intending to marry. Arrangements are not made between third parties, by telephone, FAX, or email. The bride or groom should contact the parish office to arrange an opportunity to meet with the parish priest.

When are weddings celebrated?

Generally, weddings are celebrated on Saturday afternoons at either 12:00 Noon or 2:00 p.m. Occasionally a wedding may be celebrated on a Friday afternoon.

What about Marriage Preparation?

All couples who marry at Holy Cross must participate in a Marriage Preparation Course offered by the parish or by another Catholic parish.