



SAINT BENEDICT PARISH
300 Yates Drive ♦ Milton, Ontario L9T 2W3
www.stbenedictparish.ca

Information for Couples Preparing for the Celebration of Marriage

Introduction

Saint Benedict Parish was established to serve the area of Milton south of Derry Road. From its beginning in 2012 the Parish has been home to a young and lively community of believers. In our worship, witness and service we strive to live the Gospel and our Catholic tradition with faith.

Congratulations on your engagement. Thank you for reading this information regarding the celebration of marriage. No doubt, your upcoming celebration will be a truly joyful and memorable experience for you and your families. Due to the number of requests and the number of wedding celebrations, we do have some basic guidelines that apply to all couples ... specific questions regarding your celebration may be directed to the pastor in your meeting with him.

Who can be married at Saint Benedict Catholic Parish?

A man and a woman – one or both of whom are *Latin Rite Roman Catholic* – may enter into Marriage so long as both parties to the marriage are **free of any prior bond of marriage**. This means that if either the bride or the groom has been married before – in a civil or church ceremony – no date for marriage can be arranged. Once the freedom to marry has been established by the appropriate Church authorities a date for marriage can be set.

Further, at least the bride or the groom, or one of their families, should be registered Parishioners of Saint Benedict Parish. A **member** of the Parish is someone who lives in Milton – South of Derry Road or has been a registered Parishioner for at least *six months*. A **member** is also someone who faithfully attends Sunday Mass and supports the Parish with their *time, talent, and treasure*.

Catholics who attend another Parish community (in the Diocese of Hamilton) may be married here with the permission and cooperation of their Parish Priest.

If neither party to the wedding is *Latin Rite Roman Catholic*; or if the couple live outside the Diocese of Hamilton, the wedding ceremony cannot be celebrated here.

What are my first steps in arranging for Marriage at the Parish ?

If you are resident in and/or a parishioner of Saint Benedict Parish, complete the *Marriage Application* (page 4) and arrange an appointment with the Pastor through our Parish Office. Please bring recently issued (past 6 months) Baptism Certificates for the Catholic parties to the proposed marriage.

If you are not a Parishioner, but you are a Catholic who attends a Parish in the Diocese of Hamilton, please follow the steps above and contact our Office for an appointment with the Pastor. If your wedding is accepted here, the Pastor will contact your Parish Priest to discuss the particulars of your marriage preparation. He may also ask your Pastor's assistance in completing the necessary documentation for your wedding celebration.

Due to the number of requests for the celebration of marriage, we are unable to accept weddings of individuals who live outside the Diocese of Hamilton.

Only the Pastor can confirm a date and time for the celebration of Marriage. This arrangement will be made with you at a personal meeting with both the bride and groom. Our office staff, and the priests of the Parish, will not discuss potential dates for marriage by telephone or email, or with anyone other than the bride and/or groom.

It is best not to finalize the date with your reception venue until you have secured a date and time with Saint Benedict Parish.

Who contacts the Parish?

It is best that the bride and/or the groom contact the Office. Please note that we do not discuss the availability of dates by telephone or email.

The Pastor will be pleased to meet with you once you have completed the **Application for Marriage** form found on our website and have obtained new Baptism Certificates (for Catholics).

Why a new Baptism Certificate?

For Catholics, the Baptism Certificate proves one's freedom from a prior bond of marriage in the Catholic Church. It is a required document to enter into marriage.

Decorating the Church ...

Couples may arrange for one or two floral arrangements to be brought to the Church for the wedding ... it is understood that these floral arrangements stay after the wedding as a gift to the Parish. **No** other decorations – banners, runners, announcement boards will be permitted inside or outside Saint Benedict Church.

Photography & Videography ...

Only **one (1)** professional photographer or video operator will be permitted to record your ceremony in the Church. Assistant photographers will not be permitted to record the ceremony.

Are there requirements for Marriage Preparation?

Marriage Preparation – through a Diocesan approved course – is required for all couples seeking the celebration of Marriage at the Cathedral. Once your wedding date and time have been confirmed by the Pastor, you will receive information on the various components of Marriage Preparation offered through the Diocese of Hamilton and our Parish.

Do we have to obtain a Civil License?

Yes. Couples are required, by Ontario law, to obtain a Civil Marriage License from the Office of the Registrar at City Hall. This license can be obtained within 90 days of the date of the wedding – we require it here at the Parish within one month of the date of your wedding.

Is there a time requirement for the notification of marriage?

Couples who plan to marry here are advised to contact our Parish Office **one year** in advance of the desired date of marriage. This will allow enough time to complete the various requirements of marriage preparation and documentation. The same applies to couples who plan a “destination” wedding.

What does it cost to be married at Saint Benedict?

Offering for the Wedding

\$1,000.00

Payment by credit card, cheque or cash can be made in our Parish Office. Once it is received you will receive a confirmation email for your wedding.

This fee includes the following:

Church offering, Presiding Priest, musician and cantor (additional singers with an additional charge), sacristan, caretaker and an Altar Server.

Other questions ...

Many other questions will be answered at the wedding workshop and in your personal interview with the Pastor. Please note that all arrangements for your wedding are made between the Pastor and the couple personally – not through intermediaries – wedding planners, parents or other relatives.

Next steps ...

- Complete the **Application for Marriage** found on page 4.
- Obtain your Baptismal Certificate (for Catholics it must be a recently issued certificate).
- Arrange an appointment to meet with the Pastor by contacting the Parish Office.

SAINT BENEDICT PARISH
300 Yates Drive ♦ Milton, Ontario L9T 2W3

APPLICATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

General Information:

GROOM					BRIDE		
			FAMILY (Last) NAME				
			GIVEN (First & Middle) NAMES				
			Home Address				
			City, Province				
			Postal Code				
			Telephone				
			Email				
			Occupation				
DD	MM	YYYY	Date of Birth		DD	MM	YYYY
			Place of Birth (City/Province)				
			Father's First & Last Name				
			Father's Religion/Rite				
			Mother's First & MAIDEN Name				
			Mother's Religion/Rite				

Baptism & Faith Practice Information:

GROOM Catholic ☐ Christian ☐ Not baptized ☐ <i>If baptized, please provide a certificate of baptism.</i>					BRIDE Catholic ☐ Christian ☐ Not baptized ☐ <i>If baptized, please provide a certificate of baptism.</i>		
			Date of Baptism				
			Religion/Rite				
			Church of Baptism (address)				
First Communion ☐ Confirmation ☐ Weekly ☐ Occasional ☐ Seldom ☐			Sacraments (Catholics) Church attendance		First Communion ☐ Confirmation ☐ Weekly ☐ Occasional ☐ Seldom ☐		

Witness Information:

Groom's Witness (Best Man)				Bride's Witness (Maid of Honour)	
		First Name			
		Family (Last) Name			
		Home Address			

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date of Initial Meeting:

Donation to the Parish ☐