



CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING

714 King Street West ♦ Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1C7

T: 905.522.5744

W: christthekingcathedral.org

E: basilica@hamiltondiocese.com

Information for Couples Preparing for the Celebration of Marriage

Introduction

The Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King is the “mother” Church of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton in Ontario. It is the home of the major liturgical celebrations of the Diocese throughout the year and it is a Parish Church. The Cathedral takes its name from the *cathedra* or “seat of the Bishop” which is housed in our Church. In 2013, the Cathedral was honoured by the Holy Father with the title “Basilica” in recognition of the beauty of its architecture and its importance in the local community. Our Parish is home to a diverse population ... people who live in the neighbourhood immediately around the Cathedral, and those who travel across the City and surrounding area to call the Cathedral their spiritual home. For more than 80 years the Cathedral Basilica has dominated the Western entrance to the City of Hamilton and has stood as a beacon of faith.

As a Parish Community we are happy that you are taking the time to read this information regarding the celebration of marriage and we hope that 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 which apply to all couples ... specific questions regarding your celebration may be directed to the Rector of the Cathedral.

Parish Staff

Reverend David Wynen, Rector
Lisa Tuck, Secretary
Sandra Gould, Pastoral Assistant
Robert Corso, Director of Music

Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
Fridays 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
(Appointments arranged by contacting the
Parish Office)

Who can be married at the Cathedral Basilica?

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 the Cathedral Basilica Parish. A **member** of the Parish is someone who lives in the geographic territory of the Cathedral Parish, or has been a registered Parishioner for at least 6 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.

A donation for the support and upkeep of the Cathedral Basilica will be requested of those who do not regularly support us with their financial contributions.

If neither party to the wedding is *Latin Rite Roman Catholic* the wedding ceremony cannot be celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica.

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

If you are a parishioner of the Cathedral Basilica Parish, complete the *Marriage Application* (page 4) and arrange an appointment with the Rector through our Parish Office. Please bring recently issued (past 6 months) Baptism Certificates for the Catholic party(ies) to the proposed marriage.

If you are not a parishioner of the Cathedral Basilica Parish, please complete the application for marriage (page 4), obtain recently issued (within 6 months of the application) Baptism Certificates for the Catholic party(ies) to the proposed marriage. Once your wedding celebration has been accepted by the Rector of the Cathedral Basilica, he will contact your Parish Priest to obtain a letter of permission. He may also request your Parish Priest's assistance with some or all of the aspects of Marriage Preparation depending upon your situation. Please know that priority is given to couples who are parishioners and attend Mass here on Sundays.

Only the Rector of the Cathedral Basilica is able to 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 Cathedral Basilica, 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 finalize the date with your reception venue until you have secured a date and time with the Cathedral Basilica.

Who contacts the Cathedral Basilica?

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

The Cathedral Rector 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 into marriage.

Decorating the Cathedral Basilica ...

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 the Cathedral Basilica.

Photography & Videography ...

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

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 Rector, you will receive information on the various components of Marriage Preparation offered through the Diocese of Hamilton and the Cathedral Basilica 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 at the Cathedral Basilica 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 are the costs associated with a wedding at the Cathedral Basilica?

The fee breakdown follows:

Donation for the upkeep of the Cathedral Basilica

\$1,000

An Income Tax Receipt will be issued on the day of the wedding for this amount. This portion of the fee may be waived, at the discretion of the Rector, if the couple or family are already supporting the Parish with their weekly donations. Payable at the time of "booking" the wedding. Cheques payable to Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King.

These fees, placed in the envelopes provided at the Wedding workshop, are payable at the final wedding appointment:

Offering for the use of the Cathedral Basilica

\$300

Organist

\$250

Only the Cathedral organist is the musician for your wedding. Other musicians may not be engaged without the written permission of the Rector and the agreement of the Cathedral Organist.

Cantor (leader of song)

\$150

The Cathedral Organist will arrange for a parish cantor to be the leader of song for your wedding celebration. Outside singers may not be engaged without the written permission of the Rector and the agreement of the Cathedral organist.

Sacristan

\$75

Caretaker

\$75

Altar Server (\$20 each)

\$40

Other questions ...

Many other questions will be answered at the wedding workshop and in your personal interview with the Rector. Please note that all arrangements for your wedding are made between the Rector 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 Rector of the Cathedral Basilica by contacting the Cathedral Office.



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APPLICATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Wedding Celebration Information

Preferred date of marriage:	Preferred time: 12:00 Noon 2:00 p.m.
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GROOM'S PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Never Married Widowed Divorced	
Last Name:	
First & Middle Name(s):	
Age:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:	
Occupation:	
Home address:	
Father's First & Last Name:	Religion/Rite
Mother's First & MAIDEN Name:	Religion/Rite
Telephone:	Alternate telephone:
Email:	
GROOM'S BAPTISMAL INFORMATION	
Catholic Christian Not Baptized	
Date of Baptism:	Religion/Rite
Church of Baptism (complete address):	
Please provide a copy of your Baptismal Certificate if you were not baptized at the Cathedral Basilica.	
First Communion	Confirmation
If convert, date & place of Reception:	
GROOM'S WITNESS (Best Man) INFORMATION	
Full name:	
Complete address:	

BRIDE'S PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Never Married Widowed Divorced	
Last Name:	
First & Middle Name(s):	
Age:	Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:	
Occupation:	
Home address:	
Father's First & Last Name:	Religion/Rite
Mother's First & MAIDEN Name:	Religion/Rite
Telephone:	Alternate telephone:
Email:	
BRIDE'S BAPTISMAL INFORMATION	
Catholic Christian Not Baptized	
Date of Baptism:	Religion/Rite
Church of Baptism (complete address):	
Please provide a copy of your Baptismal Certificate if you were not baptized at the Cathedral Basilica.	
First Communion	Confirmation
If convert, date & place of Reception:	
BRIDE'S WITNESS (Maid of Honour) INFORMATION	
Full name:	
Complete address:	

OFFICE USE ONLY:	Date of Initial Meeting: _____	Donation to the Cathedral	Stipends
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This completed form, together with Baptismal Certificates (if applicable) are to be given to the Rector at the Initial Meeting with the couple. NO DATE FOR MARRIAGE CAN BE ARRANGED IF EITHER PARTY IS BOUND BY A PRIOR BOND OF MARRIAGE.