



CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING

714 King Street West ♦ Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1C7

T: 905.522.5744

W: ctkbasilica.ca

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.

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 Rector of the Cathedral.

Parish Staff

Very Reverend David Walter, Rector
Debra Roche, Secretary
Sandra Gould, Pastoral Assistant
Robert Corso, Director of Music

Office Hours

Monday Closed
Tuesday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Fridays 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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 *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.

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). Please submit newly issued (past 6 months) Baptism Certificates for the Catholic parties to the proposed marriage.

If you are not a Parishioner of the Cathedral Basilica Parish, 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 Rector. If your wedding is accepted here, the Rector 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 Rector of the Cathedral Basilica 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 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 to finalize the date with your reception venue until you have secured a date and time with the Cathedral Basilica.

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.

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.

We will arrange a meeting with the Cathedral Rector once you have completed the **Application for Marriage** form found below and have obtained newly issued 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

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	\$1,200
<i>An Income Tax Receipt will be issued at the end of year that the deposit was paid. 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 date. Cheque payable to the:</i>	
Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King.	

These cash fees are to be placed in the envelopes provided at the Wedding Workshop and given at the final meeting with the Rector prior to the ceremony:

Offering for the use of the Cathedral Basilica	\$300
Organist	\$250
<i>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.</i>	
Cantor (leader of song)	\$150
<i>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.</i>	
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).
- Once we receive your application, we will review and reach out to arrange a meeting with both of you and the rector.



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OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date of Initial Meeting: _____

Donation to the Cathedral ☐

APPLICATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

General Information:

GROOM			FAMILY (Last) NAME	BRIDE		
			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			BRIDE	
Catholic ☐ Christian ☐ Not baptized ☐ <i>If baptized, please provide a certificate of baptism.</i>			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	