



ST. CLARE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

133 Westmount Ave. Toronto, ON, M6E 3M6

(416) 654-7087 (T); (416) 654-7090 (Fax)

stclaresto@archtoronto.org

WEDDING PACKAGE

“More than a union based on romantic love or mutual fulfillment, marriage goes back to the very essence of what it is to be human - and reflects a design placed in our hearts by God himself.”

(Beloved: marriage preparation course)



PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING, STEP BY STEP...

Dear friends,

We are delighted that you desire to have your love blessed and sealed through the sacrament of matrimony. During this beautiful time of preparation, let us help you to organize things. Here is what you need to remember:

1. **Meeting with Father**

Father will be pleased to meet with both of you for the Prenuptial Enquiry, also known as *Form 1*. This meeting will need to be scheduled by you and will take about one hour. Both of you will have to attend the meeting. A second meeting will be booked approximately 4-6 months prior to the wedding date.

2. **Certificates**

The Catholic party/parties¹, will need to bring in their Baptism and Confirmation certificates ASAP. If one party is not Catholic, please inform the priest.

¹ Please note that, in order to get married in the Catholic Church, one of the two must be Catholic.

3. **Previous marriage**

If a previous marriage existed, the following documents are required:

- An authentic certificate or satisfactory proof of death of spouse;
- An official declaration of nullity from the proper Catholic Marriage Tribunal.

No date for marriage can be given until freedom to marry has been documented and approved by the Chancery office.

**Meet with Father at least one year in advance.
Please understand that having a hall booked is not a reason for us to speed
up the wedding ceremony. **** NO DATE CAN BE CONFIRMED ****
(Not even in pencil) unless No. 1, 2 & 3 are fulfilled.**

4. **Photo**

Please give us a photo of both of you together. It will help us to put names to faces. Please give the photo to Father at your initial meeting or send it to us with your original marriage registration form.

5. **Marriage License**

Three months prior to your wedding ceremony (cannot be done earlier), apply for your marriage license and bring the whole package (including the envelope) to the office as soon as you have it. We will process it for you. When you receive a valid marriage license (NB: the license expires every 90 days).

6. **Choosing to Get Married Outside One's Proper Parish**

If you desire to get married at St. Clare Parish, but do not live within the parish boundaries of our church, you will need written permission from your current pastor. This letter must be in our possession prior to your first meeting with the pastor.

7. **Readings**

Please pick three readers (for 1st Reading; 2nd Reading; and the Prayers of the Faithful, respectively) and have them practice the readings before the Wedding Ceremony. For more information, please check page 6 of this package.

8. **Marriage Preparation Course**

We recommend you register for the Marriage Preparation Course as soon as possible. Please make sure to book ahead of time, as marriage classes often get booked up! You can choose which class you would like to attend:

1. For **St. Clare Parish**, please contact marriageprepto@gmail.com.
2. For **Archdiocese of Toronto**, please contact <https://www.cfstoronto.com/marriage-preparation-family-life/>.
3. For the weekend course, you can contact the **St. Francis Centre in Orangeville** at <https://www.stfranciscentre.net/bull-marriage-prep-course.html>.

Once you have completed the course, send us a coloured copy of the original certificate via email at stclaresto@archtoronto.org. **Note: We need to have this certificate in our office prior to your 2nd interview with the pastor.*

9. **Wedding Rehearsal**

Wedding Rehearsals are usually booked on Tuesday or Wednesday evening, at 6:00 p.m., prior to your wedding. They're approximately one hour. Who should come? Everyone in the bridal party: parents, as well as readers and anyone one who wishes to attend. Please note that the pastor will do your confessions after the wedding rehearsal is done.

10. **Wedding Planners**

Please remind your wedding planner (if any) that all arrangements, liturgy selections and wedding rehearsals are made directly by the priest. Therefore, at the Church, they will have to abide by the Church's guidelines.

11. **Church Donation**

St. Clare is a beautiful, old parish, and the maintenance costs are incredibly high. For this reason, there is a **suggested Church donation of \$400** for your wedding. An income tax receipt for the full amount of the donation will be given to you. **Please bring your donation on the day of your wedding rehearsal.** (Please note that donations for the **Church (\$400)** and for the **Musician (which you would need to contact them directly to discuss the fee for the music)** should be prepared in two separate cheques and envelopes).

12. **Updated Baptism (Confirmation) Certificates**

Six months prior to your wedding date, you will have to contact the church of where you were baptized and request a **New, Re-issued, Updated Baptism Certificate** (for both bride and groom). Once you obtain it, please bring it into our office or you could have the church send it directly to us via email at stclaresto@archtoronto.org.

13. Best Man and Maid of Honour

Only two witnesses are needed, who will be signing the register and the marriage license. According to the Province of Ontario witnesses must be 18 years of age, or older (on the wedding day).

14. Dress Code

As a sign of respect to all, please dress MODESTLY.

15. Flowers and Decorations

Two flower arrangements are allowed in front and on both sides of the altar. Plants or flowers are likewise not allowed in the aisles (as they are emergency exits). Flowers are to be delivered **one hour before the wedding ceremony**. Aisle runners or carpets are not permitted. Flower petals or rice are not allowed inside or outside the Church.

16. Photography

You will make your own arrangements for professional photographers and/or videographers. Please, remind them not to step onto the altar during the wedding celebration and to be very discrete. No drones are allowed in the Church.

17. Wedding bands

Only one ring each should be exchanged and blessed at the ceremony.

18. Time and days

Weddings are scheduled on **Saturdays anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** They can also be scheduled on any other day of the week (except Sundays or on any special day), at times that do not conflict with other Masses and parish programs. Since there are other weddings and or functions before and after your ceremony, we ask the groom and ushers to be at the church half hour before the ceremony. The bride and bridesmaids should arrive 15 minutes before the ceremony. St. Clair Avenue is always congested with traffic. Please plan well, drive safely, and leave home early. Parking will be available in the school parking lot as well as the school yard.

19. **Music**

Our music ministry contacts are:

- Anthony Ferrari, singer and organist: 647-401-1282, anthony.ferrari01@hotmail.com
- Luigi Rizzo, tenor and organist: 416-834-9330, Luigirizzo@msn.com
- Paul Jessen, organist; 416-419-6904, info@paulemlynjessen.ca

During the ceremony, only sacred music is allowed.

If you contact any other musicians or singers, they should play/sing from the choir loft and limit their selection of songs to **sacred music only**. They are welcome to use our equipment without adjusting any settings.

20. **Priest for Marriage**

Please understand that there may be a possibility of a visiting priest celebrating your wedding. If you are familiar with a priest who would like to do that, please let Father know well in advance. In fact, priests from other parishes may validly officiate at a marriage as long as the right permission, delegation, and marriage license are in order. These documents, however, may take a while to obtain, so please decide ahead of time. Visiting priests are nonetheless always welcome to con-celebrate without any issues or difficulty. If you choose another priest, a stipend must be given directly to them separate from the Church donation.

21. **Confession**

If you are Catholic, confession will be done at the end of the wedding rehearsal. While one of you is in the confessional, the other can stay with your guests.

CHECK LIST

TO DO RIGHT AWAY:

- Form 1 (see no. 1);
- Baptism and Confirmation Certificates (see no. 2);
- Photo (see no. 4);
- Registration at St. Clare Parish (see no. 6);
- Signed Consent Form (see next page).

THREE to SIX MONTHS PRIOR:

- Updated Baptismal Certificate (see no. 12).

THREE MONTHS PRIOR:

- Marriage License: apply and bring to the office (see no. 5);
- Original Marriage Preparation Course Certificate (see no. 8).

TWO MONTHS PRIOR

- Communicate your choice of readings following these steps:
 - ✓ If you haven't yet received it, simply ask the Office for a copy of the reading's selection (you will get a PDF file titled, "READINGS for the Sacrament of Marriage");
 - ✓ Review all your choices and inform the Office about the selected readings.

AT THE REHEARSAL

- Go to confession (see no. 22).

Know that I am keeping you in my daily prayers.

Fr. Jomon George



----- CONSENT FORM -----

Fill in the blanks, sign and give this to the priest or secretary

Bride (print your first and last name as on ID) _____

Groom (print your first and last name as on ID) _____

I have never been previously married. *(If you have been previously married, please omit your signature on this section only):*

Bride (signature)

Groom (signature)

I agree with the above package. *(Regardless of previous marriage question, both parties must sign and date below):*

Bride (signature)

Groom (signature)

Date:
