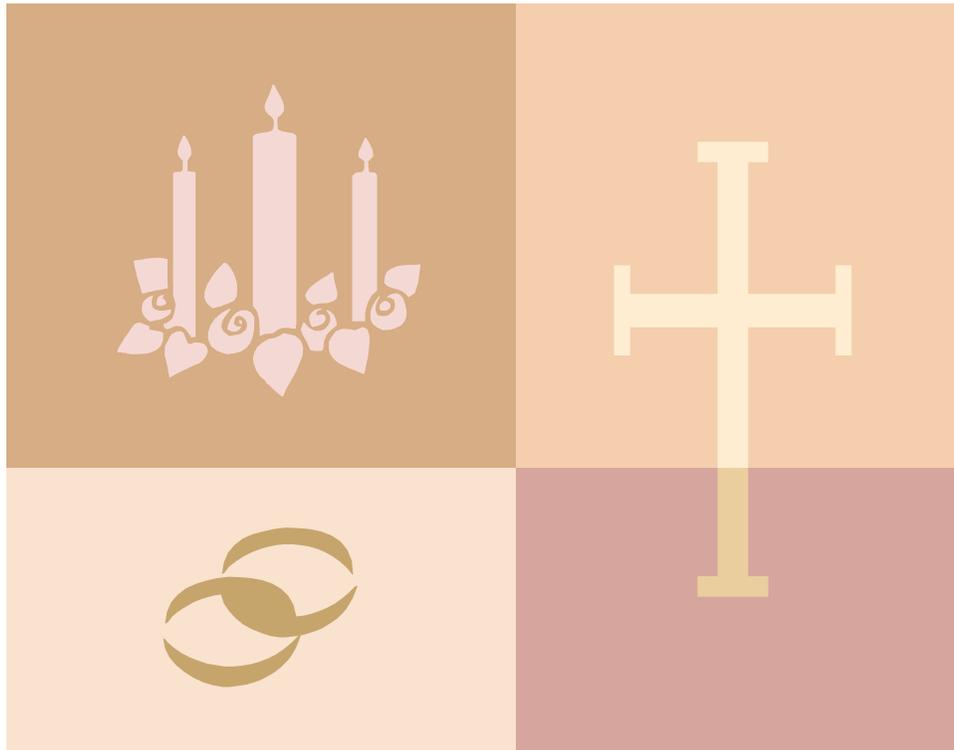


*Celebrating  
The Sacrament of Marriage at  
St. Marguerite d'Youville  
Parish*



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***A WEDDING AT  
ST. MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE  
PARISH***

*“Let your wedding be a celebration of your love for each other.”*

Your wedding is one of the most important events in your life. The Parish community of St. Marguerite d'Youville is privileged to be a part of your planning process. The following information is presented to guide and assist you.

By selecting our Parish as the location for your wedding ceremony, you have indicated your desire to begin your marriage vocation in the presence of God. In the wedding ceremony you encounter God's presence as you enter into the sacredness of marriage. The spiritual and sacramental aspects of this occasion should be reflected in your planning.

Incorporating the following guidelines into your planning will enhance the sanctity and the beauty of your wedding.

We urge you to remain in charge of your wedding and keep the emphasis on the Sacrament of Marriage.

**Canon Law dictates that the normal place in which marriage should take place is the parish of the bride or groom. Consequently, St. Marguerite d'Youville restricts weddings to parishioners who are registered and who come to our parish on a regular basis. Though your parents may already be registered members of the parish, we ask that you do so as part of your preparation.**

***BOOKING DATES FOR MARRIAGE***

In order to book a date for your wedding at St. Marguerite d'Youville, you must contact a priest at least one year in advance of your proposed marriage date. If there are particular circumstances why your wedding should be held earlier, these issues should be discussed with a priest at the parish. Early notification allows for registration, participation in a mandatory marriage preparation course, and the time needed to gather required documents and to complete necessary forms. **We advise you not to book any halls before you have met with a priest and have been given a confirmed date.**

***WEDDING TIMES***

Wedding times at St. Marguerite d'Youville are set for **Saturdays**, and take place at **11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm**. Weddings are not allowed on Sundays according to the laws of the Local Church. Other days of the week can be considered. Weddings are not normally celebrated during the Advent or Lenten Season.

***MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES***

Marriage Preparation courses are required for all couples anticipating marriage in our parish. These course are offered at St. Marguerite d'Youville as well as at other parishes in the area. You may also contact the Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-934-3400 for other courses or contact Queen of Apostles at 905-278-5229 for their weekend course. **It is your responsibility to book and attend one of these courses.**

## ***THE MINISTER OF MARRIAGE***

Usually, the priest with whom arrangements are made for the wedding and who conducts your first interview will be the minister who witnesses your vows at the marriage ceremony. Visiting priests or deacons, especially close relatives, are always welcome at your wedding if permission is first obtained through the Pastor. All this can be discussed in the initial interview.

## ***REQUIRED DOCUMENTS***

### **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES**

**Every Catholic being married must obtain a current Certificate of Baptism, that is, one that has been issued within the last six months.** The Parish of baptism should be contacted in due time and one simply asks for a Certificate of Baptism for the purposes of marriage. A Non-Catholic party, if baptized, should also provide proof of Baptism. This need not be a current document, as the original will suffice, and we will simply take a photocopy of the original document.

### **CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

When an approved course has been completed, please bring the certificate to the office to be added to your file.

### **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

**All couples must obtain a marriage license.** These licenses can be obtained at any City Hall in the province of Ontario. A birth certificate or valid passport is needed. One person may pick up and return the application form, provided they have the proper identification of the fiancée. In this province, a license is valid for only 90 days, so ensure you wait until closer to your wedding date.

**As soon as a license has been obtained, it should be brought to the parish office (at least three weeks prior to your wedding).** There is nothing on the license that you need to fill out.

### **PREVIOUS MARRIAGES OR BELOW THE AGE OF 18** **(if applicable)**

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

- A death certificate, or a divorce decree.
- An official confirmation from the proper ecclesiastical court with regard to the dissolution of nullity of the marriage.
- A copy of the previous marriage license (Long Form).

**NO DATE WILL BE SET UNTIL PROPER PERMISSIONS ARE OBTAINED.**

### **PARENTAL CONSENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

You must be at least 18 years old to be married in Ontario by license or under the authority of the publication of banns without parental consent.

### ***SPIRITUAL PREPARATION***

So that the Sacrament of Marriage may be fruitfully received, it is earnestly recommended that the couple prepare themselves spiritually through prayer, scriptural meditation, regular participation in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### ***SUGGESTED DONATION TO THE PARISH***

At St. Marguerite d'Youville, we ask that the bride and groom make an offering to the parish in the amount of **\$350 to \$500**. This donation should be submitted in the form of a cheque payable to St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish at the time that you hand in the marriage license or no later than **two weeks** before your scheduled wedding.

### ***PLANNING THE LITURGY***

The couple is given the opportunity to choose a number of prescribed scriptural passages, prayers and blessings to make their marriage celebration more personal. You will be provided with a small booklet to help you in your choices. Please finalize your choices with the presiding priest or deacon.

### ***LECTORS (READERS)***

Readers may be chosen by the couple to proclaim the readings, as well as the General Intercessions. They should be either Catholic or Baptized Christians. Those chosen should be able to proclaim the readings clearly and devoutly.

### ***ALTAR SERVERS***

The parish usually provides two servers for a wedding Mass. A suggested donation of \$10.00 per altar server would be appreciated. However, friends and/or relatives may serve at the wedding. If they plan to do so, the presiding priest must be informed beforehand.

### ***MUSIC***

Music is an important part of the wedding celebration, and should reflect the dignity and sacredness of your celebration. It is important to keep in mind that your wedding music is first and foremost prayer; it is worship of God. For this reason secular music, however expressive of love, is not used in Catholic wedding liturgies.

The ministers of music are there to intensify the spirit of prayer and worship. Their music is to fit into the mood and action of the various parts of the wedding rite.

### ***CANTORS***

The Catholic liturgy upholds the role of the cantor. This vocalist leads the assembled worshippers in singing during the Mass, particularly the Responsorial Psalm and other acclamations. There are times throughout the wedding liturgy where the vocalist may also perform appropriate solo music.

### ***PIANIST/ORGANIST***

In addition to providing accompaniment to support the cantor/ assembly's singing, the pianist or organist may also provide appropriate instrumental music during the liturgy.

### ***ENSEMBLES*** (Vocal & Instrumental)

While it is not common to have a choir at most weddings, there are instances where this is suitable. Instrumental ensembles, such as string quartets, are permitted when an appropriate cantor & pianist is present.

St. Marguerite d'Youville maintains a high standard of music-making and as such, we permit only our own parish musicians to perform and lead music at weddings. If for a special reason, you wish to have a family member or close-friend (who is a trained musician) join the selected musicians for your wedding, consult the Coordinator of Music Ministries for approval.

The Catholic Church highly encourages remunerating qualified music ministers for their time, skill and education. Typically a wedding liturgy requires a pianist (or organist) who is also a cantor, thereby leading the singing. The average cost of such an individual is \$250.00. Please note that additional musicians (singers or instrumentalists) are to be negotiated separately. This stipend also covers any communication/meetings between the couple and musician to determine appropriate music; individual or group rehearsal time; and performance at the wedding itself.

To assist you in planning the music for your wedding or in selecting musicians, please **first** contact Eliza Albano at 905-792-7497, ext. 224, or at [weddingmusicatsmdy@gmail.com](mailto:weddingmusicatsmdy@gmail.com). It is advised to book your musicians at least two months in advance.

### ***BRIDAL PARTY***

We strongly recommend that no member of the bridal party be less than five years of age. We also trust that all members of your bridal party will be properly attired for the wedding, in order to reflect the dignity and sacredness of the event and the space within which it is held.

### ***REHEARSAL TIMES***

Because of the parish schedule of daily Masses and group meetings, the following days and times have been reserved for wedding rehearsals (please book the day/time directly with the Priest who will be presiding at your wedding):

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Wednesday: | 6:00 pm  |
| Thursday:  | 5:30 pm or<br>7:30 pm  |
| Friday :   | 6:00 pm or<br>7:00 pm (except the First Friday of the Month) |

### ***FLOWERS***

The florist or the persons in charge of flowers and decorations should deliver the flowers to the Church in plenty of time for proper placement, but they also need to be aware if there is a wedding before yours. Please ask them to check with the Church office to see when they can have access to the Church to decorate. Please keep in mind that the flowers and decorations need to be removed immediately after the ceremony in order to allow the next wedding party ample time to prepare. Please note that the Church does not provide any pedestals or stands

**PLEASE KEEP THE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS SIMPLE.** No elaborate or overly large pedestals are allowed, as these tend to block the view of the congregation and detract from the solemnity of the liturgy. Some couples choose to leave at least one bouquet of flowers for the Church, or even to return some to the Church, after the reception, early on Sunday. Please speak to the Priest if you wish to donate any flowers.

### ***CONFETTI, RUNNERS, AND ARCHES***

**The use of rice, confetti, arches, and wedding runners or any other similar material are not allowed in the Church or on Church property** as they constitute a safety hazard to parishioners.

### ***PHOTOGRAPHY***

A wedding is indeed a memorable event. However the marriage ceremony is a sacred event, taking place in the house of God. In keeping with the dignity of a church wedding, and reverence for God's house, the following guidelines are to be observed.

Most couples contract with a professional photographer/videographer, and this is entirely your choice. Please have your designated photographer speak with the priest at least 15 minutes prior to the wedding in order to go over the instructions and restrictions. Most photographers are very co-operative and will follow the instructions. Please make sure your photographer is given a copy of the guidelines.

The usual times for photographs to be taken are when the bride enters; at the exchange of vows; the signing of the register and when the couple are processing out of the Church:

The use of additional or accessory lighting is prohibited: (except for use of the standard camera-mounted flashgun). In the case of videographers, this means that no additional lights may be set up.

Video photography must take place in a designated area of the Church and with a fixed tripod. Only one camera is permitted. The video camera is not to be moved around during the ceremony, especially during the readings, the Gospel, the Homily, and the Prayers of the Faithful. It is important that you and the congregation focus on the proclamation of God's Word. No photographer is permitted to be in the Sanctuary or to walk across the Sanctuary during the ceremony.

### ***PROMPTNESS***

Respect for your guests and awareness of the importance of the occasion should prompt you to be on time. (If you are late the Priest may have no choice but to shorten your ceremony in order to accommodate the next wedding.) Please as a courtesy, encourage all in your wedding party to be on time. Thank you.

## **A COUPLE'S CREED**

We believe that God has called us together  
to be for each other and for the world  
a sign of His faithful love.

We believe that our union is meant  
to show how much all friendships demand  
and how much they show forth  
the constant loyalty of God's covenant with His people.  
we can bring each other to God,  
and thus make our life together an act of worship.

We believe that our marriage in the Church  
makes us and our life together  
one gift to the world.

We believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of our union,  
and that by our love  
we bear witness to His union with His Church.

We believe we are meant to care for our children  
in such a way that they will give themselves  
in service to God and His world.

As we hold to this belief  
we pledge ourselves to help each other grow in holiness  
and offer ourselves and our union to God.