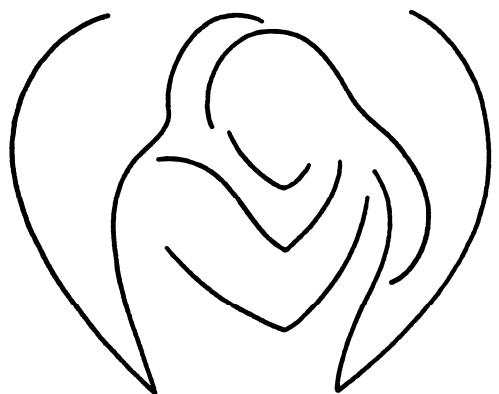


St. Stephen's Parish Chelsea, Qc



*Marriage
a lifelong endeavor
of love*

STEPS TO FOLLOW FROM REGISTRATION TO CELEBRATION

2

The pastoral service of marriage includes these five steps:

- ▶ registration;
- ▶ marriage preparation course;
- ▶ prenuptial inquiry;
- ▶ practice; and
- ▶ the celebration.

REGISTRATION

Registration must be done 12 months in advance at the parish. You must have the following information with you at registration (for each spouse):

- ▶ birth date;
- ▶ date and name of the parish of baptism and confirmation;
- ▶ name and address of notary in case of marriage contract
- ▶ parents' address including their province/country of birth;
- ▶ name of witness.

You must also provide all previous marriage divorce or annulment certificates.

The date and time of marriage will then be fixed and you will be required to pay a \$75 non-refundable deposit, applicable to the total cost of the marriage.

3

The actual cost of the marriage is based on fees established by the diocese and on any special requirements you may have. This cost covers the celebration at the church only and does not include music, flowers, photography, decorations.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSIONS

Marriage preparation is a crucial step the spouses must take so that the matrimonial alliance have a solid and long-lasting humanitarian and Christian foundation. The marriage preparation courses are mandatory. Several regional organizations offer such courses, including Saint Paul University's correspondence courses. You can choose the method that suits your needs but you will be required to provide proof that you have completed the courses.

Enquire at time of registration, the parish may offer such a course.

4

PRENUPTIAL INQUIRY

The prenuptial inquiry is in fact a private meeting with the couple and a priest. The goal of this meeting is to demonstrate to the couple the seriousness of their endeavour and to ensure no obstacles will prevent their marriage project. Will be discussed at that meeting, the implications of a marriage project and advise on matters such as personal identity, liberty of contractual marriage, Christian marriage preparation and personal intentions with respect to the essential properties and elements of marriage.



The meeting will take place during an evening or week-end, depending on the availability of the priest and the couple. It is at this meeting that the couple will need to provide a copy of a recent baptism certificate (six months or less) on which their confirmation must be indicated.

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THE PRACTICE

The practice usually occurs in the same week as the marriage. The celebrating priest will reserve the church for a date that meets everyone's schedule. The spouses, however, are responsible for ensuring all participants are present at the agreed time.



THE CELEBRATION

Marriage normally takes place within a Mass. However, it is sometimes preferable to celebrate it with a Liturgy of the Word for reasons of authenticity and coherence with the parties' religious practice. These two formats will be explained by the priest during the prenuptial inquiry.



The lectures and chants may be selected from the booklet delivered to the couple at registration. A small pamphlet with these texts and songs as well as the ceremony itinerary may be printed for the guests.

For reasons of safety and insurance, confetti, rice and petals of flower are prohibited inside and outside of the church.

Since another marriage may be planned immediately prior or after yours, decorations must be simple and easily taken down. They can only be installed about 30 min. prior to the celebration and must be taken down immediately after the ceremony.



CANCELLATION OR CHANGES

In case of cancellation or date/time changes, please communicate immediately with the parish office.

CONTACTS

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