Planning your Wedding in the Catholic Church

Where to Begin?

1. Contact your parish – or your fiancé's parish – **8 to 12 months before the planned date of your wedding to make an appointment.**

   Even if your wedding will not take place in your parish, you must make an appointment with your pastor (the priest of your parish): he will prepare your **marriage file.**

   ATTENTION – Do not wait too long! Depending on your situation, some administrative procedures may take several months.

   - **You do not know which parish you belong to?**
     A. Go to www.diocesemontreal.org
     B. Click on "Find a Church" at the top right-hand side of the page.
     C. Enter your postal code.
     D. Determine the parish closest to your home.
     E. Contact that parish to confirm that it is your parish.
     F. Make an appointment.

2. **At the meeting with the priest of your parish**, make sure that you have understood:
   - What are the **official documents** required for your marriage file
   - The time of the **nuptial inquiry** (if not completed the same day)
   - Any **other procedure** to be undertaken

3. **Verify the requirements** of the parish **where you are to be married**:
   - Does the parish offer **marriage preparation** or do you need to register somewhere else? (see step 4)
   - Does the parish offer music and choir services?
   - Guidelines concerning the taking of photos and videos, decorations, confetti, etc.
   - What are the hours that the church will be open on the day of the wedding? (so there will not be any unpleasant surprises)
   - The time of the wedding rehearsal
   - The **costs** pertaining to the celebration
   - Any other requirement

➢ ***If you marry somewhere other than your parish:***

- **It is possible** that you may have to **find the priest** who will bless your marriage on your own. **Please ask if this will be the case.**

If you do need to find a priest, here are some ideas:

- Can your pastor suggest one?
- Is there a priest that you or your fiancé particularly like?
- Do your family members – or those of your fiancé, or your friends know a priest?

- Did you attend a wedding or a baptism, for example, where the priest inspired you?
- If you are looking for a priest who speaks a **particular language**, you may contact one of the parishes in Montreal where parishioners of that linguistic group gather (search the internet).

4. **Reserve your place** at one of the **marriage preparation sessions** available in the Archdiocese of Montreal (click here to find out the dates and places).

ATTENTION: it is recommended that you take **your marriage preparation from 6 months to one year before** the wedding.

Reserve early, **places are limited and they go fast**, especially in the spring.

5. Always remember that you are not only preparing a ceremony and a party but ***the rest of your life!***