



General Information & Guidelines For Marriages at St. Francis Xavier



[Congratulations!](#)

He popped the question—and now you're both stepping into a season of dreaming, planning, and imagining the day that reflects your love story. With all the ideas swirling, where do you begin together?

Remember a wedding is so much more than a large party. It is a pivotal moment in your lives where you will make lifelong promises to each other. We are here to help you create a marriage that is rooted in Christ. Before you pick a date or a venue, book an appointment with the priest *first*. During this initial meeting, the priest will discuss with both of you what the marriage celebration in the Catholic Church looks like, provide a list of resources to help you plan, and will discuss your wedding date.

[Marriage Preparation](#)

All couples married in the Archdiocese of Edmonton must complete a Marriage Preparation program. There are several different programs available. This will be discussed in the initial meeting with the priest.

[Baptism Certificates](#)

Please contact the church you were baptized in as soon as possible to obtain an updated certificate of baptism. Sometimes it can take a while for a parish to prepare this, so make an early attempt to obtain this crucial document. This applies to Catholics. Those baptized in other denominations can provide any copy of a baptism certificate.

Celebrate the Marriage

Celebrating your marriage in the Church is much more than having a religious setting for the marriage. You are proclaiming not only acceptance of each other as husband and wife for the rest of your life, but the Christian vision of what married love and family are all about. The entire marriage liturgy is a proclamation of what the Church and you believe. The Church has set guidelines for marriage liturgies to help in this regard. The Scripture passages, hymns and symbolic gestures all say something about the mystery of the Sacrament of Marriage and focus on what God is offering to you.

The marriage liturgy is a communal and official celebration of the Church and might look different than what you have seen elsewhere. Therefore secular music and customs are not part of the marriage liturgy. Remember, everything is saying something intentional about what we are celebrating.

While involving little children as flower girls and ring bearers can add a level of cuteness to your ceremony, the day can be stressful for them. You want your marriage to focus on worship to God and on your vows to each other - nothing should detract from this. If you choose to have children involved in the marriage ceremony, please carefully consider if they are old enough to understand and follow instructions.

Planning Your Marriage Liturgy

The Rite of Marriage can be celebrated within Mass or during a Liturgy of the Word. When a Catholic marries a person of another faith, the general practice is to celebrate the marriage within the Liturgy of the Word - this is suggested so as to not emphasize difference at the time of Communion when we are celebrating the union of two families.

Photography

Photos of this special occasion are important, but picture taking must never be a source of distraction during the celebration. The couple should designate one person to take photographs during the celebration. The congregation will be asked to refrain from taking any pictures on their personal devices as this takes away from the reverence of your special day. Videography is allowed. Please instruct your photographer to speak with the Priest at the rehearsal or prior to the liturgy concerning what is appropriate.

Signing of the Register

While the signing of the register is not part of the marriage liturgy, it is still important documentation. It will be signed at the end of the celebration.

Décor

Decoration, including flowers, are never placed on the altar. They can be placed with discretion around the altar and ambo but cannot be taller than them. Pew markers can be attached with elastics or ties but please no tape. If you would like to donate any flowers from your celebration to the church, you are welcome to do so. No confetti, flower petals (real or artificial) are to be used in the church or on the church grounds. The only candles to be used are those already in place in the church. Please ensure you have delegated someone to remove all decorations at the conclusion of the liturgy.

Government Forms

Please obtain your marriage registration form from the provincial government. You can obtain it at any registry as much as 90 days prior to your wedding date. The parish office needs it at least 1 month prior to your wedding date. *Witnesses must be at least 18 years old.*

Financial Responsibilities

Your wedding is a joyful celebration for our parish community. The following outlines the financial responsibilities associated with the use of the church and related services.

Nave/Church: \$400

Clergy: \$200

AV Tech: \$100

Livestream Data Charge (Optional): \$25

Choir (Optional): \$150

Pianist/Organist (Optional): \$150

Parish Hall: Book Separately

Should the recommended fees be problematic, please speak to the priest.



Checklist

Immediately	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial Meeting with Priest
After Initial Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain Baptism Certificates• Register for Marriage Prep Course
After Completion of Marriage Prep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second Interview with Priest
2-3 Months Prior to Wedding Day	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact Music Ministry• Bring all completed paperwork to parish office• Finalize plans for liturgy• Obtain Marriage Registration form (from Registry)

Thank you for choosing St. Francis Xavier as the place to celebrate your wedding and begin your life together rooted in Christ.