

AT CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

It is our desire to make your wedding ceremony a happy and memorable occasion. We believe that adequate preparation will facilitate your growth in love for God and each other throughout your life together. An important part of our pastoral work is to help our parishioners to prepare for their marriage.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE: Normally, a couple should contact a priest/deacon at the parish office five or six months before any proposed date of marriage. The priest / deacon will want to discuss preparation for marriage courses, the documents required for marriage and the marriage ceremony.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES: The parish has married couples in the parish community who will help you in this process. There are five sessions in the program and the dates and times of these sessions are set up by you and the couple that is assigned to you. Couples wanting to attend a Weekend Marriage Preparation Course or Engaged Encounter Weekend need to **talk to the priest/deacon to find a recognized course.**

YOUR MARRIAGE CEREMONY One of the most important parts of your preparation is the arrangement of your ceremony. You shape the ceremony yourselves by selecting Readings and choosing from among the many Prayers and Blessings from a booklet that is provided for you. This requires some time and thought, but makes your marriage ceremony personal and very meaningful.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal, usually the day before the weddings (time will be determined by availability of the Church and by the couple and priest or deacon) is for every person involved and should be there for the practice. It is to be a simple walk through of the marriage ceremony.

Besides the wedding party, it is important that your readers be present in order to practice with the sound system.

Please do not invite people who are not directly involved with the rehearsal to “come *just to watch*”.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM is required of those who have been baptized. **For a Catholic**, this certificate must be reissued within the last six months before the marriage. This document becomes part of your marriage record. We can not retain your original certificate for this purpose. For those who are **not baptized in the Catholic Church**, a copy or affidavit is needed.

A LETTER OF FREEDOM to verify that the person is free to marry is required for each person to be married. This letter is required when they not personally known to the priest/deacon. This letter is generally written by each parent or, if unavailable, a very close relative. The **letter should indicate how long they have known the engaged person and their relationship to that person.** It must include place, date, and signature. A form letter is available to aid in this matter.

A MARRIAGE LICENSE is required.

This may be obtained from any Provincial registry outlet.

A Marriage **License expires in three months** (90 days). Make sure that your license date of issue and date of expiry falls between your marriage date. This document is a legal page of the Provincial Register; therefore, please follow the instructions that **it is to be filled in only by the registry outlet and the parish office.**

ALL NECESSARY PAPERS should be in the parish office ONE MONTH Before the Wedding. If the marriage is to take place outside the parish, papers are to be fully completed **no later than TWO MONTHS** before the date of marriage, so as to give time for the documents to be sent to the proper authorities.

A QUESTIONNAIRE for each person will be filled out and kept with the marriage papers. This will be used to complete the Government Registration Form which will be signed on the day of the marriage and forwarded to the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

DIFFERENT FAITH If the couple is of different faiths, permission must be received from the Bishop's Office for the marriage. The couple should discuss their faith carefully and agree to raise their children in the Catholic faith.

MUSIC: It is preferred that our parish musicians play and sing at the weddings in our parish. Special arrangements must be made with other musicians who are invited to play in the church. Since a wedding is a sacred ceremony, special care should be made in selecting music. Certain music is not acceptable, with this in mind, the music chosen for your wedding should express a clear relation of God's love for his people and should not be an expression of human desires. As a couple, you may have the “perfect song” that you wish to use during the ceremony, but if it is not appropriate, it might be more fitting to be played at the reception. Please be aware of copyright laws regarding the copying of our words and music. To photocopy and print words and/or music without permission of the copyright holder is illegal. Taped music is not permitted. Our musicians are familiar with wedding music and will be able to assist you in the choice of music best suited to your wedding. It is customary to choose your Readings, Prayers, etc. first and then, add the music and singing.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Some persons find themselves in special circumstances. These should be discussed with the priest/deacon at the first meeting or, when they occur. Inter-Faith marriage, teenage marriage, previous marriage, members of another parish, not attending Mass regularly or pregnancy are some of the circumstances which require special attention. Our priest/deacon is willing to give special consideration to these matters.

TEENAGE MARRIAGE: *Marriage of those eighteen years and under.* Before the priest /deacon will arrange the date and time of marriage of someone eighteen years or under, he will want to see the partners, individually and the parents of each party. The couple may be asked to see a marriage counsellor, before any arrangements are made.

PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR YOUR REHEARSAL AND WEDDING: As there are pastoral commitments for the church and for the priest/deacon. Your consideration is appreciated.

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE: Our priest/deacon is always available to discuss a former marriage, problems regarding a present marriage, or future plans regarding marriage. Any former marriage commitment (Civil or Religious or former common-law relationships as well as Natural Obligations) is an impediment against a second marriage. An annulment is needed for all cases of Catholic and non-Catholic parties. In some circumstances, a counselling session may be a requirement.

MEMBERS OF ANOTHER PARISH: Normally, a marriage takes place in the parish of the bride in Latin Rite. In the Oriental Rite (Eastern Rites) of Catholic Church, the marriage takes place in the parish of the groom. If this is not the case, please discuss it with the priest/deacon well in advance for the Catholic party to apply for a dispensation from the canonical form of marriage. *(A Catholic is to be married before a priest/deacon and two witnesses, or have this law dispensed.)*

A PRIEST/DEACON FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH: If you have a priest/deacon in your family or a friend and you want him to officiate at the wedding or to assist at it, he is welcome. Please let us know early on in your preparation. Priest/deacons who live outside the province of Alberta will require a provincial marriage license from the province of Alberta. They are only attainable through the Bishop's Office.

WHAT FEES ARE REQUIRED? There is a basic fee for the Church expenses of **\$200.00**. If a Mass is being offered, please enclose a larger amount since extra costs are incurred. This fee is written to **Corpus Christi Parish**. It is to be placed in a separate envelope and left at the church office no later than one week before the wedding. For those who are not registered in the parish, the church fee is **\$300.00** and is for the use of the church only. It must be remitted at the time the wedding date is booked. The basic fee for organist, instrumentalist or soloist is at least, **\$175.00** each. Some musicians may charge more. Special consideration should be made if you require the musicians to attend the rehearsal; an additional fee is expected.

WEDDING TIMES: Sat. 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.

CONFETTI, RICE or BIRDSEED:
Is not to be used on Church property, inside or outside.

PHOTOGRAPHY: No photography during the ceremony except by the designated photographer. A stationary video camera is permitted. Please remind this individual that he/she is **NOT PERMITTED** to roam about the church during the ceremonies or **STAND ON** the furniture or pews. Photographs are not permitted in the sanctuary area. Pictures are permitted in the body of the church only during the processional, signing of the register and the recessional. All other pictures must be taken from the underneath balcony. At no time may the procession, coming in or out, be stopped for pictures. The use of flash photography and lights for video are not permitted.

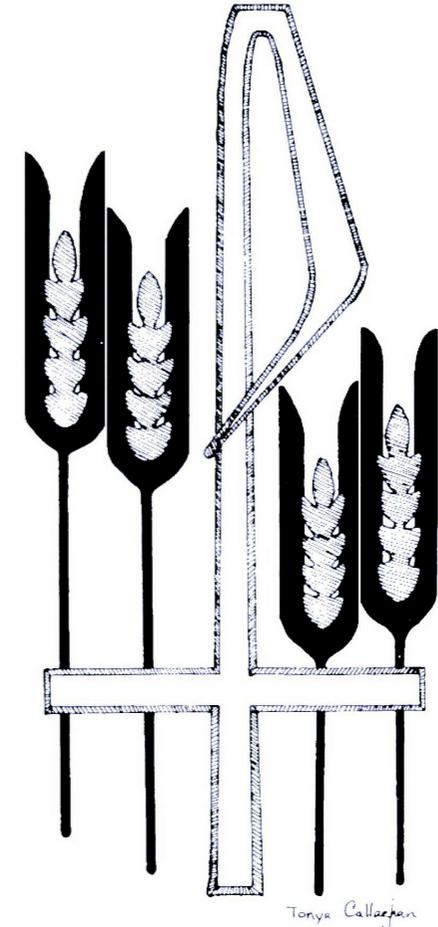
FLOWERS & EXTRA DECORATIONS: The parish will make the ordinary preparations for the wedding, but flowers and extra decorations are the responsibility of the couple. There are restrictions regarding the appropriate location as well as regarding what is appropriate for use in a church.

At no time are pew decorations to be used to stop the assembly from having access to the main aisle. When the flowers for your wedding arrive at the church, they will be placed where flowers are customarily placed. Couples should arrange for someone to come in well in advance of the ceremony to attend to any special arrangements. It would be appreciated if arrangements were made for some of the flowers to be left in the church for Sunday services.

PARKING
Those attending your wedding are asked to use Church parking lots. They are east on Northmount Drive, north of the Church and Parish Hall on Thorndale Road. We **STRONGLY** request that you inform your guest that vehicles are **NOT** to park in the Thorncliffe Plaza.

This leaflet has been prepared to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about marriage preparation. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the parish office or the priest/deacon at (403) 274-4349. We are here to assist you.

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CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH MARRIAGE INFORMATION