

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!***