

In marriage,
it is not so much
about *finding*
the right partner,
as it is about *being*
the right partner!

Contact Us:
St. Joseph Catholic
Church,
10404 102nd Street,
Grande Prairie, AB.
T8V 2W3

Phone:(780) 532-2351
Fax: (780)538-2286
Visit us on the web:
www.saintjoseph.ca/

Frequently Asked Questions:

•***Can Catholics marry Non-Catholics?***

Yes! Ordinarily in this case we would not celebrate Mass because both would not receive communion. A wedding without Mass is equally dignified as a wedding with Mass

•***My spouse and I were married in a civil ceremony. Can we get our marriage blessed in the Catholic Church?***

Yes, provided one of the spouses is a baptized Catholic, the church is happy to bless your marriage in a ceremony called a "Convalidation". Couples generally go through some sort of marriage preparation before the ceremony.

Our wedding will be very small. I am worried the church will feel big and empty.

For very small weddings the chapel can be used and may feel more intimate. It is a beautiful space and ideal for small gatherings.

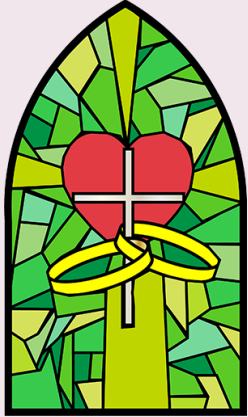
•***Can we get married outdoors?***

A wedding is a sacred event and is celebrated in a sacred place. Because of this understanding, weddings witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon take place in a Catholic church.

•***Please call the church office and we will gladly answer all questions you may have (780-532-2351).***



**Wedding
Information
at
St. Joseph Catholic
Church, Grande Prairie,
AB**



The Process:

1. Booking the Church/First Interview:

A fee of \$150.00 is required before the booking is confirmed. This fee is paid at the parish office. The marriage preparation process begins with the booking, and the first interview.

Usually, the church requires at least 8 months to gather all the documents and prepare the couple.

A time of discernment and reflection on the meaning of Christian Marriage is always beneficial. (The fee will be refunded if the wedding is cancelled).

2. Documents: Each of you will need to provide proof of baptism from the church where the baptism occurred. Ask them to send a current copy of your baptismal certificate made within the last six months.

Non-Catholics should also submit a copy of a baptismal certificate, if possible.

3. Second interview: A second marriage interview will be done approximately three months prior to your wedding.

4. Wedding Ceremony: You may choose to have a wedding ceremony with or without Mass. A wedding with Mass lasts about one hour; one without Mass is about half an hour in length.

5. Photos: Please note, the church is often used for other purposes immediately after the wedding so please may not be available for photos. Many couples find a place at the park for photos. In the case of inclement weather you should be ready to find another place for group/family photos.

6. Marriage License: You will need to purchase and submit a marriage license to the parish office about six weeks prior to your marriage date, keeping in mind that the license is valid only 90 days.

7. Bible Readings: Approximately one month before your wedding you will meet with the presiding priest. He will help you to select biblical readings. You will need to ask one of your guest or family members to proclaim the first reading, the second reading and the prayers of the faithful.

8. Questions/Concerns: If you have any questions or please call the church and ask to speak to Darlene Lemay, Karen Backmeyer, or one of the priests. We will do all we can to support you. God bless you on your journey.

9. Sacred Music: In our Catholic tradition, a wedding is a sacred ceremony and so should have religious music performed live (i.e. no pre-recorded music). The most appropriate music comes from the church hymnbook. If there is no Mass, classical music with no lyrics is also acceptable. If Mass is celebrated, the musicians must be able to play and sing the mass parts. If you have questions please speak to the presiding priest.

10. Music fees are payable to the musicians, depending upon special requests. See below for fees. The following musicians may be available for hire:

Natalie Lemay – piano or harp	Piano \$250.00 Harp \$300.00	780-533-2282
Jeannie Pernal – piano	Piano \$250.00 (\$400.00 for cello and piano together)	780-402-0153 Text only
Katherine Pernal – cello		
Brianne St. Hilaire – piano	Piano \$250.00	780-882-5017
John Kilian – piano	Piano \$250.00	780-876-5454