



# St. Ambrose Catholic Church

782 Browns Line  
Etobicoke, ON M8W 3W2  
PASTOR: Fr. Donatello Iocco

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## Marriage Guidelines

**Marriage Celebration with Eucharist:** Couples need to be both practicing Catholics. Which means they attend Sunday mass every Sunday. **Please note there are no exceptions.** Couples are also encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Confession prior to Wedding Ceremony. Confessions at St. Ambrose are every Saturday 3:45pm to 4:15pm.

**Marriage Celebration with No Mass:** Marriage Ceremony without the Eucharist means either one of the couples are not Catholic or couple are not attending mass regularly.

**Choosing Readings** Selections can be found on parish website: [www.stambroseparish.com](http://www.stambroseparish.com)

- Select 1<sup>st</sup> Reading from the “Old Testament” – 1<sup>st</sup> Reader
- Select 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading from the “New Testament” – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader (Optional)
- Gospel – chosen and read by celebrant Priest
- Select General Intercessions – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reader

Once you have chosen your readings, please provide an enlarged copy of each reading, with the name of the reader to the priest at your rehearsal. (Please see attached sample copy).

### **Parents are encouraged to do the following:**

- Parents of bride to walk her down main aisle. If you wish the traditional in which father escorts the bride, then someone should be delegated to walk the mother of the bride.
- Parents of the groom are to take their place in the front pew or parents of the groom can be walked down the aisle by groom prior to wedding party procession. Please note priest conducts all rehearsals.

### **Dress Code**

- Bride and matrons should dress **discreetly**.

### **Unity Candle**

- Unity candles are discouraged and are not part of the ceremony. We suggested having it at your reception.

Tel: (416) 251-8282  
Fax: (416) 251-4400

E-mail: [stambrose.office@gmail.com](mailto:stambrose.office@gmail.com)



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## Flowers

- Flowers should be delivered approximately ½ hour before the time of the wedding ceremony.
- Aisle runner / carpet is discouraged because guests can trip. Also flower peddles scattered on the aisle are discouraged because someone can slip. In addition, please no rice or confetti outside church.
- You may wish to give your mothers (grandmothers) a **red** rose at the Sign of Peace. Please tell your florist not to dress the rose for it should be visible. Many times it has so much extra added to it, including a plastic wrapping that the rose is totally covered. A simple water capsule at the base of the stem is enough as to keep it fresh.

## Proper Behaviour in Church

- Please **do not chew gum**. Ushers are asked to help in ensuring that when guests enter the church chewing gum, that they dispose of it in the waste bin in the bathroom. Also, if guests are chewing gum they are not to receive Holy Communion.
- Cellular phones should not be used in the church and we kindly ask that they be turned off upon entering the church.
- Loud talking in the entrance and body of the church is strongly discouraged. St. Ambrose parish is a place of prayer and worship, so silence is observed. Upon entering the church, we remind you that you are entering a “Holy Sanctuary” where the Blessed Sacrament is present. Also, there may be others in church whom may be praying- please show respect.

## TIME

- Groom and ushers should be at the church ½ hour before the time of the ceremony.

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- Bride and matrons should be at church 10 minutes before the time of the ceremony. Punctuality is a **must** for there are usually 2 weddings per weekend. Please respect other people's times and also the celebrant.

## **Music**

- For music please call the Parish or speak to Fr. Donatello.
- We supply an organist who also sings.

## **Marriage License**

- You are to obtain a Marriage License approximately 2 ½ months before your date of marriage from any municipal center close to you. The fee for this document is \$125.00. This document is issued “on the spot” upon presentation of **either** a birth certificate or a valid passport for both parties.
- Only one party needs to go to obtain the application. In this case, you need to download the application from the Government of Ontario website, [www.cbs.gov.on.ca](http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca), have your fiancée complete and sign their portion of the application and provide the appropriate documentation.
- Once you have obtained your license, **please contact the parish office** to set-up an appointment to complete Form I with Father Donatello. This is approximately a ½ hour meeting.
- The meeting usually takes place 2 ½ months before your wedding. Also, please bring the names and complete addresses of your Best Man and Matron of Honour to this meeting. At this time a rehearsal time will be set. We usually have rehearsals at 6:00 or 7:00PM, on either Monday, or Wednesday evenings. **PLEASE BE ON TIME.**

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- With your marriage license, you will also receive an Application for a Request for Marriage or Death Certificates. This application needs to be completed following your marriage and mailed to the Office of the Registrar General along with payment. In turn, you will receive a Marriage Certificate, which you will need to make any changes of Name on your Driver's License and other legal forms. A copy of this application is included for you with the package.

**Wedding planners are not permitted.** All weddings arrangements and liturgy selections and wedding rehearsals are to be made directly with Father Donatello.

## Wedding Fee

To conclude, the parish finance committee kindly asks that you give **\$350.00** for the rendered and use of the church for your wedding. This includes the administrative work to be done to prepare proper documents/license for the wedding. Musicians and flowers are not included in the wedding fee.

## **Marriage Preparation Classes – MANDATORY**

Catholic Family Services: Marriage Preparation Program [www.cfstoronto.com](http://www.cfstoronto.com)  
Central Toronto Office

**1155 Yonge Street, Suite 200**  
**Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1W2**  
**(416) 921-1163**  
**[Email: info@cfstoronto.com](mailto:info@cfstoronto.com)**

Weekend Retreat for your marriage classes:  
Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga  
Telephone: (905) 278-5229

**Holy Angels Catholic Church in Etobicoke**  
**(416) 255-1691**

**All Saints Catholic Church in Toronto**  
**(416) 244-3066**

**Holy Family Parish in Toronto**  
**(416) 532-2879**

**St. Francis Centre in Caledon**  
**(519) 941-1747**

**St. Gregory's Catholic Church**  
**in Etobicoke (Kipling)**

- A retreat weekend usually begins on a Friday evening and is completed by the Sunday just after lunch.

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- The cost usually includes all meals, individual rooms and all social activities for the weekend.
- Please provide a copy of your Certificate of Completion to the office.

**SAMPLE - First Reading** - Reader: Jane Smith

## **A reading from the Book of Tobit**

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,

“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs.

They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;

Praised be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.

You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve

To be his help and support;

And from these two the human race descended.

You said, ‘you said that it is not good for the man to be alone:

Let us make him a partner like himself.’

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust,

But for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and on her,

and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The word of the Lord.

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