



Polska Misja Katolicka pw. Miłosierdzia Bożego

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PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Preparation / Date of Marriage

Formalities associated with the preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage should be handled in the parish, to which at least one side of the couple belongs. The engaged pair not belonging to any parish has to first formally sign up to a parish where they go for the Holy Mass.

The couple should contact the parish office **at least 6 months before the marriage's planned date** to fill out the forms and reserve a date and the hour of the ceremony. Marriage ceremonies are conducted at 1:00pm and 3:30pm.

During the reservation of the date of the celebration, which has to be done in person (no telephone reservations), a \$100 deposit is required. In case of resignation from the predetermined date in less than 2 month prior to the date of ceremony, the deposit will not be returned.

Documents

The following original documents are required:

- Certificate of Baptism with annotation pertaining to the sacrament of Confirmation (**the document can not be older than 6 month from the date of issuing**).
- For persons who have not yet reached the age of 21, a written consent of authorization of Marriage is required from the parents (law prescribed by the Archdiocese). In the case of a widow, a document verifying former marriage and the certificate of death of the spouse is required.
- Proof of attendance to pre-marriage conferences/workshops
- Documentation of a canonical conversation with a priest
- Acknowledgment of two witnesses of the future bride and two witnesses of the future groom (in total 4 witnesses) in regards of their identity and free will to become a union through the Holy Matrimony (this document should be prepared during the Canonical conversation with the priest)
- *Marriage License* given by County Clerk (**it is valid only 60 days form the date of issuing!**) or in the case of a civil union, a *Certificate of Marriage* is required. (In a case of multiple former civil unions, a proof of current union and all the court's decisions of nullification of the former unions is necessary).

All the required documents have to be completed and received by the parish office AT THE LATEST ONE MONTH prior to the date of Marriage!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The soon to be married couple **MUST** go to the sacrament of reconciliation, indicating to the confessor that this is a pre-marriage confession.

At the Holy Trinity Church the sacrament of Reconciliation is available every day before each Mass.

Preparation for Marriage through Conferences/Workshops

The engaged couple is required to participate in four conferences/workshops of various topics on marriage preparation. Conferences are held at our parish during winter of each year. For exact dates please contact the parish office. Additional classes are given on every second Sunday of the month by Radio Maryja Office (6965 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL; phone: 773-848-8183 or 773-343-8183).

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal at church is usually held on Thursday prior to the date of the marriage ceremony at 7:30pm, unless a different date is arranged with a priest. It is important for family and friends to take an active part in the Holy Mass by reading both the Word of God and the prayer of the faithful, and by carrying the gifts to the alter. Witnesses, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and those involved in the liturgy should attend the rehearsal.

Music

Selection of songs must reflect the liturgical norms and must be arranged with the parish organist at least **one month before the date of wedding**. Mr. Zbigniew Blicharz, Parish Organist: tel. (773) 616-9284.

Pictures/Video

During the ceremony persons making photographs or video recordings can not enter the presbytery (the area surrounding alter). Before the ceremony the photographer and/or camera operator must meet with the priest in the sacristy. After the ceremony there will be an opportunity for group pictures (outside the presbytery) assuming that the Holy Mass begins on time.

All party members must leave the church at least 15 minutes before the next marriage ceremony or other liturgical service.

The Order of the Marriage Ceremony

The ceremony **must begin on time!** Any lateness shortens the photo session or makes it impossible! NO marriage ceremony can be longer **then one and a half (1.5) hours** – this is including the photo session! Every Saturday there are other marriage ceremonies or liturgical services. The prescribed time must be unconditionally respected!

Preparation of traditional flower bouquet for the alter of Our Lady of Czestochowa, extra flowers, decorations, unity candles – if it's a wish of the engaged couple – have to be arranged on own accord. The party setting up extra decorations is responsible for their removal, including all the packaging.

It is forbidden to throw rice kernels, confetti, flower petals, etc.!

During the selection of dresses for the bridesmaids and groomsmen it is important to remember about the sacramental nature of the church so the dresses must be appropriate for this location.

THANK YOU!