



## *Divine Mercy Polish Parish*

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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 must 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 12pm and 2pm.

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

At least six months before the planned wedding date, you should contact the parish office (the Parish Pastor) to prepare a protocol and submit the required documents (see below).

### **DOCUMENTS (original)**

- **Current** (*not older than six months before delivery to the parish*) **baptism certificate** both fiancées (when collecting the baptism certificate from the parish, please indicate that it is needed for the wedding).
- 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)
- in the case of a civil union, a *Certificate of Marriage* is required. (In the case of multiple former civil unions, proof of current union and all the court's decisions of nullification of the former unions is necessary).

**All the above documents must be completed and received by the parish office AT THE FIRST MEETING with Parish Pastor.**

- *Marriage License* given by DuPage County (**it is valid only 60 days from the date of issuing!**) It must be delivered at the latest for a rehearsal before the wedding.

## PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE THROUGH CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

The engaged couple is required to participate in four conferences/workshops of various topics on marriage preparation. Please always ask at the parish office if conferences are held in our parish.

Additional classes are given:

- Radio Maryja Office (6965 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL; phone: 773-848-8183 or 773-343-8183)
- Pre Cana course: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/lifelong-formation/marriage/marriage-preparation-courses>

## THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal in the church is arranged with parish Pastor. 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 altar. Witnesses, bridesmaids, groomsmen, and those involved in the liturgy should attend the rehearsal.

## 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 Divine Mercy Church the sacrament of Reconciliation is available every day before each Mass.

## MUSIC

The selection of songs must reflect the liturgical norms and must be arranged with the parish organist at least one month before the date of the wedding.

**No folk band may play in the church during and after the ceremony.**

Mr. Zbigniew Blicharz, Parish Organist: tel. (773) 616-9284.

## PHOTOS/VIDEO

During the ceremony persons making photographs or video recordings cannot enter the presbytery (the area surrounding altar). The photographer and camera operator need to know how to behave in church. Before the ceremony they must meet with the priest in the sacristy. After the ceremony there will be an opportunity for group pictures (outside the presbytery) if the Holy Mass begins on time.

## 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 **than one and a half hours** – this includes the photo session! The prescribed time must be unconditionally respected!
- Preparation of **floral arrangements** for the altar and presbytery should be arranged with the **sister serving in the sacristy**, the telephone number can be obtained from the parish office.
- Preparation of traditional flower bouquet for the altar of Our Lady of Częstochowa, extra flowers, decorations, must 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., in and around the church.
- During the selection of wedding dresses and dresses for bridesmaids it is important to remember about the sacramental nature of the church so the dresses **must be appropriate for this location.**