



Polska Parafia 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 office, to which at least one side of the couple belongs. If the engaged pair does not belong to any parish, they must first formally sign up to a parish where they go for 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 has to be done in person (no telephone reservations), a **\$100 deposit is required** (*total fee is \$500*). *In case of resignation from the predetermined date in 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 document (see below).

DOCUMENTS (ORIGINAL)

- **Current** (not older than six months before delivery to the parish) **Certificate of Baptism both fiances** (when collecting the baptism certificate form 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.
- Acknowledgment of two witnesses of the future bride and two witnesses of the future groom (4 witnesses in total) in regards to 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 the 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 a Parish Pastor.

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

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:

- Radia Maryja (6965 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL) tel.773-848-8183 lub 773-343-8183
- PreCana courses: <https://pvm.archchicago.org/lifelong-formation/marriage/marriage-preparation-courses>

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal in the church is arranged with the 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. 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

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.

No folk band may play in the church during, before, or after the ceremony.

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

PHOTOS/VIDEO

During the ceremony persons taking photographs or video recordings can not enter the presbytery (the area surrounding the altar). The photographer and camera operator need to know how to behave in the 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! Arranged, **NO** marriage ceremony can be longer **than one and a half hours** – this is including the photo session! The agreed 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 a traditional flower bouquet for the altar of Our Lady of Częstochowa, extra flowers, decorations, must be arranged on its 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 the bridesmaids it is important to remember about the sacramental nature of the church so **the dresses must be appropriate for this location.**