



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE • ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA • ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΚΑΝΑΔΑ
GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HOLY CROSS - ST. NEKTARIOS (BARRIE)
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ - ΑΓ. ΝΕΚΤΑΡΙΟΥ
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THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your engagement! We, at Holy Cross-St. Nektarios, want to wish you all of God's blessings as you begin to prepare for your wedding day. As you know, there are many things that you'll need to decide and prepare for the wedding ceremony as well as for the reception that will follow. To assist you, we have provided you with some information to assist you in becoming a member of our Community, while helping you to prepare for your Marriage:

- ***We must take the time needed.*** The time and effort you put into getting ready for your wedding is never waste. It is important that this period of preparation is never rushed but used effectively to build a strong road to your Marriage. A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime.
- ***Preparatory Meetings.*** It is important to get to know Fr. Theodoros and feel comfortable to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have. A few meetings should be planned in order to discuss the Marriage Service and the Orthodox way of life. Also during this time the preparation of the wedding license and affidavit from the Archdiocese will be completed.
- ***Participating in the Liturgical Life of the Church.*** This means coming to Church Services often and preparing to receive to receive Holy Communion. Speak with Fr. Theodoros about how to involve yourself in the Church. It is recommended that everyone participating in the Mystery of Marriage be properly prepared by fasting, prayer, receiving Holy Communion, and participating in the Mystery of Holy Confession. **DON'T WORRY!!!** Speak to Father and he will assist you in all of this.
- ***The Official Sponsor(s)*** (in Greek, *koumbaro* or *koumbara*. The person(s) who will be involved in the wedding service, during the Blessing of the Rings and the Crowing, is a person who represents the Church community and who exemplifies Orthodox Christian character (i.e. a member in Good Standing with the Church). Since they will be a source of support during this time of preparation and afterwards in your daily life, it is important to choose carefully. It is preferable that this person not be related to you at all because becoming a sponsor, in the view of the Church, creates a spiritual relationship. Your relatives are already related to you. The Church prefers that you reach outside of your family and expand your spiritual family. This is a blessing that will last a lifetime for you and the sponsor. Again, speak with Father! He can help you with this.
- ***Becoming Part of our Community.*** It is the Christian teaching, that being married in a Church leads to being a member of that Church. Being a part of the family has both physical and spiritual benefits and responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to keep your membership current and up to date. Your contributions to the Community, through your time and financial support, are what allow it to live and grow. In return you are joined by an entire group of like-minded Orthodox Christians all working towards a common goal, *a loving relationship with each other in Christ*. For information on memberships please speak to a member of our Community Council.
- ***Rehearsals*** – Though not mandatory, a rehearsal (which normally lasts about 30 minutes) is always advisable to ensure that everyone will know their responsibilities. You will need to speak to Father to arrange a time.

Please remember that while difficulties, both spiritual and organizational are unavoidable, do not forget that if you need any help, please contact Fr. Theodoros at (647) 500-3947.

With fatherly love and blessings,

+ Fr. Theodoros
Parish Priest

Mystery of Marriage Check List

Before the Wedding:

- Ontario Wedding License
- If divorced, a copy of the original divorce decree from the Court **and** copy of the Ecclesiastical Divorce
- Archdiocese Affidavit License to Marry
- Sponsor Verification Form
- Paid Community Membership & Sacrament Fees
- Honorariums for the Clergy and Chanter are at the discretion of the sponsors

On the day of the wedding you will need the following items:

- 2 white candles united by one white ribbon
- A silver platter (which can be decorated with rice and kouffetta)
- The wedding crowns. They should be white and united by one white ribbon.
- The wedding bands (rings).