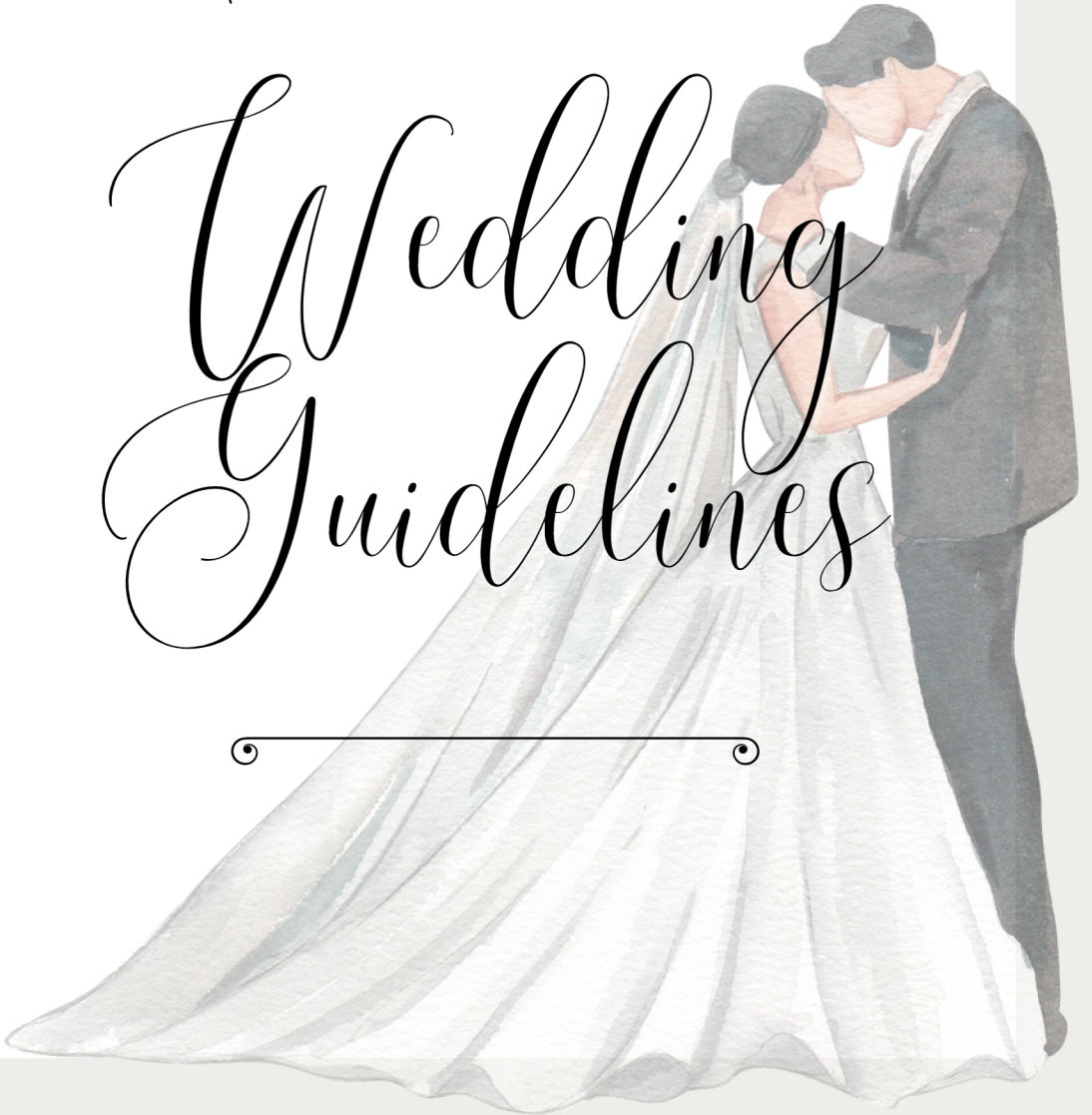


Wedding Guidelines



Wedding Preparation

An adequate preparation time is necessary to ensure everything is in order for your wedding celebration. Couples generally contact the parish one year in advance of their proposed date. Several meetings with the pastoral team are needed to ensure all necessary documentation is completed and to coordinate the celebration of the wedding liturgy.

Baptismal Certificate:

At the time of your first meeting, you will be required to present your baptismal certificates (for Catholic and other Christian partners). For Catholics, a recent certificate (issued within the last six months) is required and can be easily obtained by calling the church where you were baptized. We ask for a recent certificate as it will also provide a record of all other sacraments you have received.

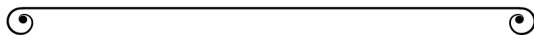
Marriage Preparation:

The Diocese of London requires that all couples preparing for marriage participate in a process of "Marriage Preparation." Various options will be provided to you.

Booking:

Please do not book a venue for your reception until a date for the wedding has been confirmed with the church. Besides determining the availability of the worship space, each couple will need to meet with the pastor to ensure that there is nothing preventing the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. This can typically be determined during the first meeting with the pastor.

Wedding Liturgy



The usual times for our wedding celebrations are Saturdays at either 1PM or 3PM. Although the wedding liturgy is a set ritual, there are a variety of options available within the liturgy. We encourage you to actively participate in planning your celebration by choosing your readings, choosing the music, considering the entrance procession, and by involving family and friends to proclaim the readings and intercessions. At the beginning of the preparation process we will give you the book *Celebrating Your Love*, which will assist you in all of these aspects. Members of the Pastoral Team will also guide you through these options.

Music:

Music at your wedding is to reflect the nature of the celebration. We encourage music from *The Catholic Book of Worship III*, other hymnals, or other instrumental pieces of a classical nature. The parish has many qualified musicians available to serve. Outside musicians are welcome but must follow the prescribed guidelines for the parish. The different worship spaces provide different options/opportunities for music. Once you have set a date and time for your wedding, you will be referred to the Music Coordinator, who will assist you in this regard.

Rehearsal:

Rehearsal times are usually held the night before the wedding at either 5PM or 6PM. The wedding party, parents, and liturgical ministers (particularly scripture readers) should be present for the rehearsal.

Flowers:

Fresh flowers can be used in the liturgical space to enhance the festive atmosphere of the day. These arrangements should be tasteful and should not dominate the space. Pew bows or flowers may be attached to the pews or chairs. Since each location is unique in what it already "offers" as part of its natural environment, care should be taken in choosing what is more appropriate to the space. All flowers can be removed at the end of the wedding and taken to the reception. Flowers should be delivered to the location between 11AM and 12PM the day of your wedding.

Photography and Videography:

Photography and/or videography during your wedding is permitted but should never cause distraction or interruption to the flow and focus of the celebration, nor should it obstruct the view of your guests. Photographers and videographers should contact the presider 30 minutes before the celebration begins to ensure they understand the parameters and locations from where to shoot.

Facilities

St. George Parish (Byron)

Address: 1164 Commissioners Rd. W. London, ON

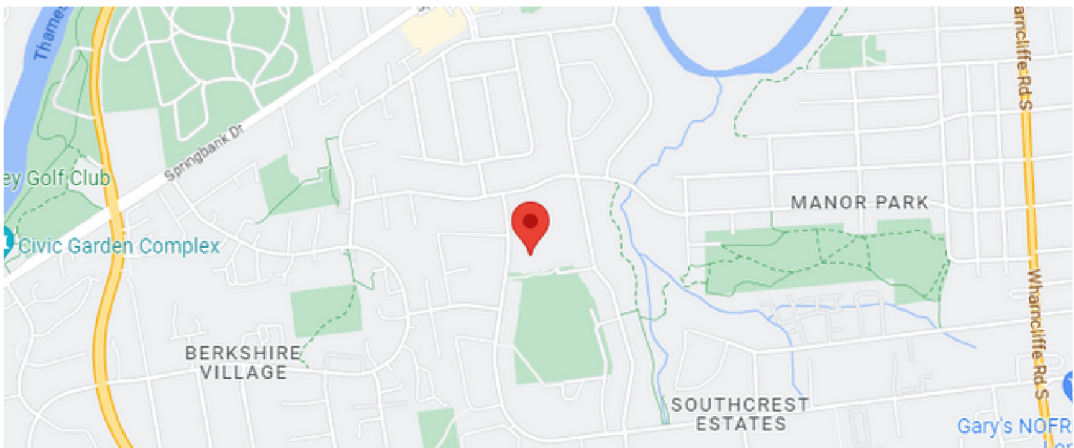
Seating Capacity: 700



St. John the Divine Parish (Berkshire)

Address: 390 Base Line Rd. W. London, ON

Seating Capacity: 400



Other Information

Fees:

We recognize that not everyone has the same financial means at their disposal. It is customary that a donation be made to the parish where you are celebrating your wedding. Musicians and cantors can be sourced for you by the parish. Fees are normally in the range of \$150 - \$200. You will need one cantor and either a pianist or organist. Strings can be added for a similar fee. Musicians and cantors are to each be paid directly; monies can be left with the pastor on the night of the rehearsal.

Preparation:

The Pastoral Team will only speak with the bride and groom as the marriage is being prepared; parents are not included in these conversations.

Marriage License:

Couples are required to obtain a civil Marriage License that is filed after the marriage. They can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office or at most municipal offices in the province. Fees for Marriage Licenses are set by the Province of Ontario. Marriage licenses are only valid for three months from the date of issue. The license must be provided to the parish office at least two weeks prior to your marriage.

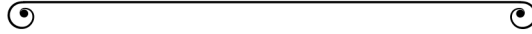
Unity Candle:

The Rite of Marriage in the Catholic Church does not use what is often referred to as the "Unity Candle". They are an unnecessary expense for the bride and groom and do not adequately symbolize the commitment that is being made.

Aisle Runners:

Our experience has taught us that aisle runners are not only unnecessary but they are often a hazard for the bride, groom, children and the elderly.

Quick Checklist



- Baptismal Certificate(s)** for Catholic/Christian Partners
- Initial interview with Pastoral Counsellor
- "All Clear" to confirm date: _____
- Wedding date and presider confirmed with Springbank Catholic office
- Schedule for Marriage Preparation meetings

- Date of Group/Retreat Day: _____
- Meeting to discuss music/liturgy
- Readings chosen and communicated to pastoral team
- Civil Marriage License** obtained and given to Springbank Catholic office (min 2 months/max 3 months prior to wedding day)
- Fees provided for services/facilities as applicable



Contact Us

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e: springbankcatholic@dol.ca

St. George Parish

1164 Commissioners Rd. W
London, ON, CAN
N6K 1C7

St. John the Divine Parish

390 Base Line Rd. W
London, ON, CAN
N6J 1W1