

Matrimony

The Sacrament of Marriage in the Orthodox Church sanctifies the union of a man and a woman who are brought into a communion of love for mutual companionship and fulfillment. This blessed union is not expressed through vows, but through a shared and committed relationship with the Risen Lord. In the Orthodox marriage ceremony, the priest, the couple and the laity pray that the Christian marriage of a man and a woman be sanctified and preserved by God in the image of Christ's perfect union to the Church.

General Requirements for a marriage to be celebrated at Evangelismos:

- The Orthodox Church solemnizes marriages in which either the bride or the groom of the Orthodox faith seek to marry a Christian.
- An Orthodox Christian bride and /or groom seeking to be married at Evangelismos Tis Theotokou in Oshawa must be in good standing and faithful stewards of the church.
- If the marriage is an inter-faith marriage (an Orthodox Christian with a non-Orthodox Christian), the couple must meet with Father Christoforos in order to discuss the conditions that must be met to ensure the couple can be married in an Orthodox church.
- The sponsor or koumbaro in an Orthodox Marriage must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing, a faithful steward of Evangelismos Tis Theotokou or his/her local Orthodox parish and, if married, have been married in the Orthodox Church.

◦Because life in the body of the Church is all-encompassing and cannot be compartmentalized, the Orthodox Church has determined that any Orthodox Christian that marries outside of the Orthodox Church in effect severs their ties with the Orthodox Church and as a result forfeits their good standing in the Church. As such, Orthodox Christians married outside of the Orthodox Church are not “in good standing,” and they may no longer receive Holy Communion or participate in a formal capacity in any of the Sacraments and their role in parish life is severely limited.

A couple who seeks to be married at Evangelismos Tis Theotkou in Oshawa must contact Fr. Christoforos well in advance in order to determine a date and time for the ceremony.

Pertinent documents in the course of this process: Baptismal certificates, a civil marriage license, civil divorce decrees (if applicable), and if a second marriage for an Orthodox Christian, an Ecclesiastical Divorce Decree; Letters of Good Standing for an Orthodox Christian sponsor or spouse not a member of the church. Please contact Fr. Christoforos for further information.

Items Needed for the Wedding

For Orthodox Christian betrothal and crowning services, several items are used liturgically:

- 2 decorated candles;
- rings for both the bride and groom, for the betrothal;
- crowns—The crowns may be either Greek-style flower or pearl wreaths linked by a long, white ribbon (called stefana), or Russian-style jeweled metal crowns. Flower wreaths may be ordered from the florist with the other flowers (bouquets, corsages, reception-table centerpieces) or from a specialty supplier, and may

be live or silk. If you are using metal crowns, make sure your parish has a set, and that they are in good condition;

Please Note: There are some dates in the Church's Liturgical calendar when Marriage Ceremonies may not be celebrated: December 13 until Christmas Day; January 5 and 6 (Theophany); August 1 – 15 (Fast of the Dormition); August 29 (The Beheading of St. John); September 14 (Exaltation of the Cross); during Great and Holy Lent and including Easter; as well as a number of other major feast days.