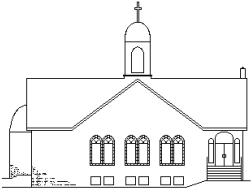




**Greek
Orthodox
Archdiocese
of Canada**

**Saint Paul's
Greek
Orthodox
Community of
Regina**



**Saint Paul's
Greek
Orthodox
Church**

**Ελληνική
Ορθόδοξος
Εκκλησία
Ο Άγιος Παύλος**

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THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENGAGED COUPLE

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- (a) A civil marriage license is mandatory before the Priest can conduct the sacrament of marriage. In addition, an Ecclesiastical license from the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada) is also mandatory.
- (b) The Priest must fill out an application requesting permission to conduct the sacrament at least one month before the date of the wedding. In the application, the Priest must include the date of the scheduled wedding.
- (c) In the event that the couple has participated in a civil wedding, they must provide their civil marriage certificate when applying for the Ecclesiastical marriage.
- (d) When the groom or bride is of the Orthodox faith, he/she must be a member in good standing of an Orthodox Church. To be a member in good standing of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, the stewardship obligation for the past three years must be paid in full. The stewardship obligation is \$150 per year for single persons over the age of 18 (\$300 per year for families). The stewardship obligation is applied retroactively for any party who has never been a member in good standing, is over the age of 18 and has resided within the Church's jurisdiction. The stewardship obligation must be fully paid prior to the sacrament of marriage taking place.

In the event that groom or bride is a member of another Orthodox Church, he/she must present a signed letter from his/her Priest indicating that he/she is eligible to marry in the Orthodox Church, he/she is in good standing Ecclesiastically and up-to-date with his/her financial obligations towards that Church. As well, a sacrament fee of \$100 (for each individual who is a member of another Orthodox Church) must be paid in full prior to the sacrament of matrimony taking place.

If any party who is of the Orthodox faith does not wish to become a member of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church and is not a member in good standing of another Orthodox Church, then the financial obligation of that individual is \$900 which must be paid in full prior to the sacrament of matrimony taking place.

- (e) To conduct a mixed-faith marriage, the non-Orthodox individual must have been baptised in an Ecclesiastically-approved denomination. The non-Orthodox individual must present his/her baptismal certificate.

In the event that the non-Orthodox individual has never been baptised or has been baptised in a non-Ecclesiastically-approved denomination, that individual must be baptised in the Orthodox faith prior to the sacrament of marriage.

For any questions regarding this matter, contact the Priest.

- (f) The Membership Verification form must be completed, signed by the Treasurer of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina and returned to the Priest prior to the sacrament of marriage taking place. ***The Priest will not perform the sacrament of marriage if this form is not returned to him.***
- (g) If a person has had a previous marriage and has been divorced, he/she must present a civil and/or Ecclesiastical divorce decree.
- (h) If a person has had a previous marriage and has been widowed, he/she must present a death certificate.
- (i) Photocopies of certificates of eligibility to marry are not acceptable. **ORIGINALS ONLY PLEASE!**
- (j) A fourth marriage is forbidden in the Orthodox Church.
- (k) An Orthodox wedding cannot be conducted in a non-Orthodox Church.
- (l) Weddings are not conducted on the following days:

September 14; December 13 to 25; January 5 and 6; Great Lent, Holy Week, Pascha; August 1 through 15; August 29; The Twelve Major (Christological) Feast days.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENGAGED COUPLE (CONTINUED)

DURING THE SERVICE:

- (a) The Priest permits only the newlyweds to drink from the common cup of wine and no one else, not even the sponsor.
- (b) During the service, **upon the permission of the Priest**, you are able to:
 - throw rice with flower petals, however, **no koufeta or confetti is permitted**
 - videotape, or use a camera to take pictures
 - have music, however, only hymnal songs are permitted

Please contact the Priest well in advance of the sacrament to obtain permission.

AFTER THE SERVICE:

- (a) It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange for someone to remove any decorations, candles (labathes), trays, etc. immediately following the sacrament of marriage.
- (b) After the sacrament of marriage has been performed, the Priest must, within five (5) days, complete both the civil license and the Ecclesiastical license from the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto (Canada). The wedding is then listed in the Registry Book of the Community.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the couple to pick up the Ecclesiastical marriage certificate from the Priest.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSOR (KOUBARO / KOUBARA)

- (a) The sponsor (koubaro/koubarara) must be an Orthodox Christian.
- (b) If he/she is married, he/she must have been married in the Orthodox Church.
- (c) There are some other restrictions of who can or cannot be sponsors to the couple. These restrictions should be discussed with the Priest well in advance of the sacrament of marriage.
- (d) The sponsor must be in good standing Ecclesiastically and up-to-date with his/her stewardship obligation towards the Community. To be a member in good standing of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church, the stewardship obligation for the past three years must be paid in full. The stewardship obligation is \$150 per year for single persons over the age of 18 (\$300 per year for families). The stewardship obligation is applied retroactively for any party who has never been a member in good standing, is over the age of 18 and has resided within the Church's jurisdiction. The stewardship obligation must be fully paid prior to the sacrament of marriage taking place.

If the sponsor is a member of another Orthodox Church, they must present a signed letter from his/her Priest indicating that he/she is in good standing Ecclesiastically and up-to-date with his/her financial obligations towards that Church. As well, the sponsor must pay a nominal fee of \$100 prior to the sacrament of marriage taking place.

If the sponsor is not a member of any Orthodox Church, he/she must either become a member of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina or pay a fee of \$900 prior to the sacrament of marriage taking place.

- (e) The sponsor is responsible for bringing the following to the Church:
 - two decorative labathes (candles)
 - a tray with koufeta (sugar-coated almonds)
 - stefana (the crowns)
 - ensuring **the rings** are brought to the Church