



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HOLY CROSS - ST. NEKTARIOS (BARRIE)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ - ΑΓ. ΝΕΚΤΑΡΙΟΥ

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THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Beloved in the Lord,

Congratulations on your decision to be married in the Orthodox Christian Church! In the Orthodox wedding ceremony, a man and a woman are joined as a couple through Christ. At the same time, they are also joined to the community in which they are married. This means that you should become familiar with the Church you are being married in, since it will become a second home. Weddings do require a great deal of preparation, at the same time, it is equally, if not more important, to prepare spiritually for this mystery, as it is the union of two people in a *Christ-Centered Community*. 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 your Priest 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. During this time, the preparation of the wedding license and affidavit from the Archdiocese will also 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 Koumbari (Sponsor(s) – Best Man or Woman).*** The person(s) who will be involved in the wedding service, during the Blessing of the Rings and the Crowing, **MUST** be Orthodox and in good standing. Because they will be a source of support during this time of preparation and afterwards in your daily life, it is important to choose carefully. Again, speak with Father! He can help you with this.
- ***It takes a Community to build a family.*** It is the Christian teaching, that to join to Christ is inseparable to joining His Church. This means 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 all good things come with prayer. While difficulties, both spiritual and organizational are unavoidable, do not forget that you are not alone. If you need any help please contact Fr. Theodoros at (705) 726-9875.

With fatherly love and blessings,

+ *Fr. Theodoros*

+ **Fr. Theodoros**

Parish Priest