

POLICY 2.7.2 The Place and Time for the Celebration of Marriage

The Place for the Celebration of Marriage

Consistent with Canon 1118, the following directives are in place in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan concerning the place for the celebration of a Catholic marriage

A marriage between two Catholics is to be celebrated in the parish church of either party, or between a Catholic and a baptised non-Catholic in the **parish church of the Catholic**. By permission of the archbishop, such a wedding may be celebrated in another church or oratory, or under unusual circumstances in another suitable place.

By permission of the archbishop or the chancellor, a marriage between a Catholic and an un-baptized person may be celebrated in a church or in another suitable place.

Catholic churches, oratories or other properties are to be used for wedding ceremonies of other Christian denominations only with the permission of the archbishop. (ref. Policy 2.1.4)

The Time for the Celebration of Marriage

In Canada, the celebration of weddings is strongly discouraged on Sundays, holy days of obligation, or during Holy Week. If for a good reason a Sunday or other solemnity is chosen for a wedding, the prayers and readings of a **wedding Mass** are not permitted, but one of the wedding readings may replace its counterpart in the Mass of the solemnity. Weddings are also discouraged in **Advent or Lent**; if for a good reason the wedding takes place during these seasons, the couple will be reminded that their wedding plans should respect the special nature of these liturgical seasons.

Marriage celebrations and the Saturday evening anticipated Mass for Sunday

In the Archdiocese, marriages are authorized on Saturday afternoons. If there is a Mass, that celebration may not count for the Sunday Mass unless it is celebrated after 4:00 p.m., and the liturgy and the readings are of the Sunday. Other liturgical adaptations called for at weddings would obviously then be permitted.

Couples who wish to exercise this option may do so if their pastor accepts the choice of such an hour. They must also accept that being then a Sunday liturgy, the prayers and readings are of the Sunday, and the general public is welcome to attend this Mass as well.

If the celebration is not of the anticipated Sunday Liturgy, then all the liturgical rites proposed for weddings may be used, and the Mass then does not satisfy for their Sunday obligation.