



MEMORANDUM

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To: All Clergy & Parishes
From: Fr. Edward J. Curtis, Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs
Date: May 3, 2021
Re: Rescheduling weddings in light of COVID-19 church closures

Thank you for your continued effort in helping couples who have had to reschedule their weddings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you had previously received a permission or dispensation for a wedding that has now been rescheduled, please reapply for the same permission or dispensation once a new date for the wedding is confirmed. If a wedding has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled, and a permission or dispensation had already been granted, please let me know so I can adjust our records.

As you are aware, some couples have been finding it difficult to set a date to reschedule their wedding, and have been asking if the archdiocese will permit the liturgical celebration of their wedding on a Sunday. Cardinal Collins will allow a **dispensation to be granted from the particular law of the archdiocese in order for weddings to take place on Sunday**, within the following parameters:

- only applicable to weddings that had to be rescheduled due to the Covid-19 crisis
- until **September 30, 2022** (period extended from August 31, 2021)

Should you wish to consider a Sunday wedding at your parish in accordance with the above parameters, you will need to petition for a dispensation employing the attached form which is also available on the Spiritual Affairs webpage.

Please refer to the Service Ontario website regarding the most current updates on the extension of the expiry date of marriage licences in response to COVID-19:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/getting-married#section-3>

Please also note that within the period of the Covid-19 pandemic, sacramental preparation for marriage is still required. Catholic Family Services of Toronto continues to provide sacramental preparation through our newly implemented program facilitated by permanent deacons. These gatherings are currently taking place by video conference. Also available as an option is online sacramental preparation from Catholicmarriageprepclass.com, or the online portion of *Beloved*, the program offered by Augustine Institute and viewable on Formed.org. Both options have been endorsed by Cardinal Collins. Some pastors have opted to meet with couples for a few sessions individually via Skype or some other means of video conferencing. That too is acceptable.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions regarding the above, by email to spiritual@archtoronto.org. Thank you once again for your co-operation and diligence in following these guidelines as we navigate these challenging days.