The Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies

This Brochure is for Non-Parishioners

Congratulations on your Engagement!

We are honoured that you have expressed the desire to marry in The Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies Parish in Canmore, Alberta. We share in your joy and we are here to facilitate your wedding ceremony. With all the Saints and Angels in heaven, we ask Our Lady and St. Joseph to accompany you in your preparation.

We hope that you will find everything you need to know about having your wedding in our church in this material. While your home parish assists you in completing your marriage paperwork and preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, we will assist you in the wedding ceremony itself. We pray that your wedding in the Roman Catholic tradition be profoundly meaningful and holy as you begin your new life together in the Lord.

Whenever you have questions regarding the wedding, please do not hesitate to contact the office at (403) 678-5022 or email: rockiesparish@shaw.ca

In Christ,
Father Pilmaiken Lezano
Pastor



BOOKING AND CONFIRMING A MARRIAGE DATE:

- *If either of you have been previously married in the Catholic Church, any church or in a civil ceremony, you will require a Declaration of Nullity before you can be married in the Shrine Church. Please speak to your parish priest as soon as possible, we cannot provide a booking until this matter is resolved.*
- Six months notice is required to schedule a marriage celebration in our parish.
- **Marriage ceremonies are booked on Thursdays at 2:00 pm, Fridays at 1 or 2 pm and Saturdays at 1:00 pm.** It is important to confirm that the church is available for your wedding before you book your reception venue. The seating capacity of our church is 435 people.
- Contact us by phone at 403-678-5022, online www.rockiesshrine.org by filling out the appropriate form, by email rockiesparish@shaw.ca or in person at the parish office to tentatively hold a wedding date and time.
- While wedding planners help you in organizing your wedding, please be aware that at the church level, you are the ministers of this sacrament of marriage and therefore, the priest/deacon and staff only deal with the bride and groom. We will not be engaging with your wedding planner.
- After you have a tentative date held with us, arrange to meet with your parish priest to begin the required paperwork and preparation. All paperwork and preparation are completed with your parish. Every parish usually has a minimum required time to complete your marriage paperwork and preparation. Be sure to check what that minimum required time is. Once you have met with the priest/deacon in your parish, he must send a letter or an email to us indicating that he has met with you and that he will be completing all required paperwork and preparation with you. The letter may be emailed to olrsacraments@outlook.com or mailed to the following address : Fr. Pilmaiken Lezano, Our Lady of the Rockies Parish, 2 Silvertip Trail, Canmore AB T1W 2Z7
- We will contact you to confirm your wedding date.

WEDDING FEES:

- The fee for non-parishioners weddings is $1,500.00. A $200.00 non refundable deposit is required to book the date and the remaining $1,300.00 **must be paid three months before your wedding date**.
- The fees charged for weddings are not to exclusively rent the space, but to go towards the upkeep of the church. You are witnesses of God's love for the entire community and therefore, weddings are not treated as a private functions, but as a community event.
- If you are providing your own priest/deacon, an additional $200.00 will be required as payment for the priest/ deacon officiating your wedding. In this case, the fee for your wedding will be $1,700.00. This however, does not cover the additional expenses of your visiting clergy. Couples are expected to cover expenses, such as lodging, meals and travel. It is your responsibility to make these arrangements with the priest/deacon you are bringing in to officiate.
- Our cancellation policy is that only the $200 deposit is non-refundable. The balance of the fee ($1300) will be refunded if the ceremony does not go through for any reason whatsoever. We do not charge extra for moving the date of the ceremony, if needed.
- A credit card number is required to be kept on file until after your wedding is completed.

WEDDING REHEARSAL:

- Wedding rehearsals are booked at 5:00 pm the evening before the wedding. The priest/ deacon will attend as well as the wedding attendant provided by the church.
- **We expect ONLY the following to attend the wedding rehearsal**:
    - Bride and Groom
    - The wedding party
    - Readers/Lectors
    - Ushers
    - Parents of the Bride and Groom





Wedding planners are not necessary at the wedding rehearsal. They are welcome to attend the wedding ceremony. Your church assigned wedding attendant will be there to direct the rehearsal and answer all of your questions.

THE WEDDING RITE

READINGS: You will be asked to choose your First Reading from the Old Testament, Second Reading from the New Testament, Gospel Reading and Universal Prayers from the Catholic Conference of Canadian Bishops' approved version of the readings for the liturgy. We will provide you with a booklet, if you are at our office in person, or a copy of the readings and prayers by email for you to select for your wedding ceremony.

READERS: You will need two lectors to proclaim the First Reading, the Second Reading and the Universal Prayers during the wedding liturgy. The priest/deacon reads the Gospel.

Weddings within Mass is highly encouraged, but not required, for the wedding of two baptized Catholics. We encourage you to go to Confession a day or two before your wedding day to truly open up yourselves to the graces of the Sacrament as you begin your new life together in the Lord.

If one party is validly baptized but not Catholic, in the interest of promoting a more comfortable and welcoming atmosphere for the non-Catholic party, it is recommended that your wedding occur without the Mass.

If the other party is not baptized or invalidly baptized, a wedding must be celebrated without Mass.

THE SEASONS OF ADVENT/LENT: Weddings held during the Seasons of Advent and Lent are asked to observe a sense of simplicity in decorating the church to reflect the penitential character of the liturgical seasons.

UNITY CANDLES & SUCH: A unity candle or sand ceremony in the wedding rite is not allowed. We suggest, instead, that you incorporate these or similar practices foreign to the Roman Catholic Rite at the beginning of your wedding reception. The veil, coin, or cord ceremonies may be allowed upon approval by the Shrine Church parish priest.

USHERS: Ushers can play a very important role in assuring the smooth flow of people in the church. You may want to consider having at least two ushers for your wedding.

RING BEARERS: You have the option of having a Ring Bearer. We ask that the ring bearer only carry symbolic rings in the procession. The actual wedding rings should be carried by the Best Man.

FLOWER GIRLS: We forbid the tossing or scattering of any flower petals or flowers. Instead, you may have them carry a basket with artificial flowers glued to it. No tossing of confetti, glitter, rice, birdseeds, or petals allowed inside or outside the church after the ceremony. Bubbles may be used outside the church. Violation of these rules will result in the couple being billed for cleaning expenses.

MUSIC: In keeping with the celebration of Catholic Liturgy, music must be played live and must be religious and/or classical in nature. Secular songs are not allowed in the church. **ALL music selections must be approved beforehand by the Shrine Church parish priest.** While music is integral to liturgical celebrations, we do not automatically provide musicians and vocalists for your wedding. We can provide guidance on song selection, and we are able to connect you to local musicians and vocalists when required.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS/DECORATIONS: may not restrict movement in the church and must not obstruct the view of the assembly. Flowers are not permitted on the altar nor in the aisles. Flowers are permitted at the base of the stairs on either side leading up to the altar. The placing of an arch is not permitted. Aisle runners are not allowed. Pew decorations may be tied or draped. No tape or method of affixing decorations to the pew that will scratch, damage or leave a residue or film may be used. Pew clips are available upon request. We ask that you do not use feathery or any decorations that leave behind a mess. <u>The church is available for one hour before your wedding for decorating.</u>



PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS: The taking of photos and videos are allowed in the liturgy by paid professionals but must be done discretely and respectfully, not pulling away the people's attention from the liturgy. Flash photography during the Mass is discouraged. No one is allowed to enter the sanctuary area [the elevated areas] to take photos and/or videos.

AVAILABLE ROOMS: Two meeting rooms off the narthex are available, 1 hour prior to wedding and up to one hour after, for the wedding parties use before and after the wedding ceremony. Please assign someone to ensure these rooms are clean and all of your belongings removed before leaving the church; otherwise, you will be charged a cleaning fee of $75.

PUNCTUALITY: is an important courtesy that we ask all parties to observe. Please be on time for the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony so as to not delay the other functions taking place in the church.

TIME EXPECTATIONS: We ask that you be respectful of the priest/deacon and wedding attendant's time for the rehearsal and wedding. For rehearsals, the church is available for 1 hour. **For the wedding ceremony, the church is available for 1 hour before the wedding ceremony and <u>for 1/2 an hour after your wedding ceremony</u>**. Lateness will have an impact on your wedding ceremony by shortening the rite accordingly.

SACRED GROUND: As you enter the church, you stand in the Most Holy Presence of God in the Tabernacle. Please acknowledge the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Please observe respectful silence. Absolutely no food, drink, or chewing gum is allowed in the church. Men are not permitted to wear hats. No animals are permitted to be part of the ceremony or inside the building at any time. Only trained-service animals are allowed in the building.

History of the Catholic Church in Canmore, Alberta.

Jesuit Missionary Fr. Pierre de Smet crossed into the Spray Lakes valley in 1845. During his brief stay there, he baptized six children and one elderly man whom he also buried according to Catholic burial traditions. These were the first baptisms and Catholic burial to take place in what would one day become the Diocese of Calgary and Catholic parish of Canmore.

The history of Canmore is inextricably tied to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Without the forward push of the railroad through the mountains and the subsequent discovery of coal reserves, the town would not have come into existence. And if there had been no workers to lay the iron rails, there would have been no "Chaplains of the Line", those intrepid and hardy Catholic missionaries who ministered to the spiritual needs of first the laborers and then the coal miners and their families who settled in the valley.

In 1893 – 120 years ago Canmore had a population of 200-300 people. Most were "Coal-Miners" and their families, 156 of these were Catholics. At this time the residents decided to have their own Church and with the help of the Congregation of Oblates of Mary Immaculate, built the "Little White Church" in six months.

1893 to November 1960, the first Catholic Church was blessed by Father Joseph Lestanc, who was Superior at Calgary and Administrator of the Diocese of St. Albert. It was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with the assistance of Father Comire and Brother Brochart.

As time went on, the Sacred Heart Church eventually owned the whole block from where the Canmore Legion is today, to the old Catholic Church, on the corner of 7th Ave and 7th Street. On the West side of the "1st Church" was the Church Hall & on the East side was St. Martha's House, where the Sisters used to live, until 1961 when they moved to the Banff Hospital. The Church also owned two more lots that are on Main Street, which was their first Church Hall & Rectory; where Radio Shack was located for many years. The Little White Church was in operation for 67 years, until Oct 23, 1960.

During 1958-59, the Parish Council decided it was time for a new Church building. It began construction on April 9, 1960. It was also built in six months. Parish Council Member Walter Riva with the help of Angelo Maschio convinced the Canmore Mine, Lefarge, Catholic families and Miner's families to help build the Church. Canmore Mines lent machinery and donated most of the materials.

The community took turns, 4 teams of 10 men each working five day shifts from 6:00 am – 10:00 pm. The new Church is almost a duplicate of the Little White Church except it is longer and wider. They also built living quarters for the Priest which was joined to the Church, and a parking lot on the East side. Bishop Carroll assisted by Father Malo and Rev. Adam Sebastian blessed the New Church under the name Sacred Heart Church.

After completion, the new Church had cost between $15,000 and $20,000. Each family was asked to pay $15 to $20 per month. Most could not afford this, but paid what they could and on October 23, 1960 the New Church was debt free. Sacred Heart Church was in operation for 58 years and 3 months, until January 28, 2018.

The parishioners of Sacred Heart started to talk and plan for a new church as early as 1977. In the last days of 2017, many masses had standing room only. In January of 2018, the masses were moved to Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy gym on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. Ground was broken on June 25, 2017 for the new Shrine Church. The Shrine opened May 30, 2020.

The Order of Ceremony

Procession

Collect (prayer)

Liturgy of the Word

- **First Reading**
- **Responsorial Psalm**
- **Second Reading**
- **Gospel**
- **Homily**

Marriage Rite

Universal Prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist - If within Mass

Solemn Nuptial Blessing

Signing of the Alberta Marriage License

(on small table, not on the altar)

Recessional

"The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses, since their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple are therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another and for their children witnesses of the salvation in which they share through the sacrament." **Pope Francis Amoris Laeticia Par. 72**

OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH
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2 Silvertip Trail
Canmore, AB T1W 2Z7

Phone: (403) 678-5022
Fax: (403) 678-1834
www.rockiesshrine.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Thursday	9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Friday	9:00 am to 1:00 pm