

Marriage within the Church

Information Book for Couples

Prayer for Couples Planning to be Married

*Lord God and Creator,
we bless and praise your name.*

*In the beginning you made man and women,
so that they might enter a communion of life and love.*

*As we prepare to enter into union may we be blessed so that we might
reflect the union of Christ with his Church.*

*Lord, in our struggles let us rejoice that you are near to help us; in our
needs let us know
that you are there to rescue us;
in our joys let us see
that you are the source and completion of every happiness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Concerning Marriage in the Church

Jesus said, "From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate." (Mark10)

"Marriage is a gift of God and a means of his grace, in which man and women become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love, they shall grow together in that love, as Christ is united with his Church.

The union of man and women in heart, body and mind is intended for their mutual comfort and help, that they may know each other with delight and tenderness in acts of love (and that they may be blessed in the procreation, care and upbringing of children.)

In marriage, husband and wife give themselves to each other, to care for each other in good times and in bad. They are linked to each other's families and they begin a new life together in the community.

It is a way of life that all should reverence and none should lightly undertake.'

(The Book of Alternative Services, p. 542)

Contact Your Priest

Before making any arrangements, couples seeking to be married should consult their priest. Your priest is responsible for explaining the Church's teaching on marriage and the need for God's grace.

Time of Marriage

Any couple wishing to be married must contact their priest at least 60 days before the proposed wedding day. To avoid disappointment do not set a definite date for your wedding until you first make contact with your priest.

Marriage Preparation

Couples are "asked to avail themselves of a marriage preparation course or program so that all who seek marriage in the Church may come to it with a Christian understanding of the realities of marriage, and may be encouraged to give with God's help to the vows which they are preparing to make."

(Canon XXI part I: Prerequisites for marriage)

Age

No priest shall solemnize the marriage of persons either of whom is under sixteen years of age.

Licences

A Marriage License is required by law and the marriage can be solemnized only within a period of thirty days following the date of issue of the license. Marriage license issuers are located in several communities throughout the Province. Information regarding issuers in your area is available from the Vital Statistics, Department of Government Services and Lands, (709) 729-0305 (www.gs.gov.nl.ca/birth/getting_married/index.html). In Mount Pearl, applications for a marriage license may be made at Vital Statistics, Service NL, 149 Smallwood Drive. The license should be brought to the Church office as soon as it is obtained, and in any event at least four days before the date of the wedding.

Baptism

No priest shall solemnize matrimony between two persons neither of whom has been baptized.

Marriage after Divorce

All Anglican clergy are bound by their ordination vows to obey the laws of the Church. The Church law respecting marriage permits, in certain circumstances, the marriage of persons who have been divorced. Such persons must consult the priest at least four months before the date desired for the wedding.

Place of Marriage

Marriage shall be solemnized in the body of the church, except with written permission from the Bishop, in the face of the congregation and of the friends and neighbours of those who came to be married. Every marriage shall be solemnized in the presence of at least two witnesses in addition to the officiating priest.

The Priest is in charge of the Service

The priest shall be responsible for the conduct of the marriage service. Hymns or anthems sung at the service shall be those only which are found in Holy Scripture, in the Book of Common Praise or in texts approved by ecclesiastical authority. The order of the service shall be those found in either 'The Book of Alternative Services.' or in 'The Book of Common Prayer'. No other of service may be used.

Other Clergy

No other clergy may participate in the service without the permission of the rector of the parish. If you have a relative or friend who is a clergy person or if you wish to have a clergy person from another denomination participate, this should be discussed with the rector. It is his/her responsibility to extend the invitation to the other clergy.

Confetti

Confetti, rice, bubbles, or wild bird seed may be used after the wedding, outside the church building.

Church Building

Our church, its design and contents, have been developed over the centuries. Many furnishings within our church have specific meanings, purpose and location. No significant changes or additions may be made. Flowers, however, may be added for the service if they are appropriately placed.

Photographs

Many couples desire photographs of their wedding service. Photographs may be taken by one official photographer during certain appropriate times during the service (ie. entering the church, during the signing of the register, and exiting the church). Some couples desire a video of their wedding service. This also may be done if there is only one official person doing the videotaping from a stationary and appropriate place. Ask your photographic people to consult with your priest before the service so that these details can be worked.

Bridal Party

It is suggested that a bridal party include no more than 12 people. This would include such people as the bride and groom, the best man and the maid of honour, the brides attendants and the grooms attendants, the flower girls and the ring bearers.

It is also advisable that no one in the bridal party be under 5 years of age.

The two witnesses who will sign the official documents must be of legal age in order for the wedding to be legal.

Involvement in the Worship Service

It is suggested that the couple become involved in preparing the worship service (ie. deciding what order of service to use and picking out their own Bible readings from an approved list).

It is also suggested that members of the family and friends of the couple take a direct part in the worship. Family members or friends may read a Bible reading, lead in 'The Prayers of the People', or, in the case of Holy Eucharist, carry forth the gifts, the bread and the wine.

Some music selections appropriate for Marriage Liturgies

Perfect Love

Lead Us, Heavenly Father Lead Us

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Come Fill My World

The Voice the Breathed O'er Eden

Only A Shadow

Ave Maria – Schubert

The Bridal chorus

The Wedding March

Canon in D – Pachelbel

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Irish Wedding Song

Ave Maria – Contemporary

I Will be Here – Severn Curtis Chapman

The Battle Hymn of Love

I Give You My Word

On This Day

There is Love

The Rose

From this Moment

This is The day

Together

Wedding Prayer

Bridegroom and Bride

Come to a Wedding, Come to a Blessing

Be our Chief Guest, Lord

Readings and Psalms
Suitable for Marriage Liturgies

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis. (Genesis 1.27-28, 31a)

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Tobit. (Tobit 8.5b-8)

"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.⁶ You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.'⁷ I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together."⁸ And they both said, "Amen, Amen."

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians. (Colossians 3.12-17)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians. (1 Corinthians 13)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's reading to the Ephesians. (Ephesians 3.14-19)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. (Romans 12.1-2, 9-13)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the 1st letter of John.

(1 John 4.7-12)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(Matthew 5.1-10)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you. *(John 15.9-12)*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "The Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you. *(Matthew 22.35-40)*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you. *(Mark 10.6-9)*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

(John 2.1-11)

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Psalms

A reading from Psalm 67.

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

² that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

COPY OF
Order of Service without Eucharist
(Book of Alternative Services)

Prelude	Canon in D
Processional	Bridal Chorus
	<u>The Gathering of the Community</u>
Opening Prayers	Page 541
	<u>The Proclamation of the Word</u>
First Reading:	Genesis 1:27-28, 31a
Second Reading:	John 15:9-12
The Homily	
The Wedding	Page 543
Lighting of the Unity Candle	
Signing of the Register	
Prayers of the People	Page 546
The Lord's Prayer	Page 547
The Blessing of the Marriage	Page 548
The Exchange of the Peace	
The Presentation of the Bride and Groom	
Recessional Trumpet Voluntary	

COPY OF
Order of Service WITH EUCHARIST
(Book of Alternative Services)

Prelude
Processional

Canon in D
Bridal Chorus

Opening Prayers

The Gathering of the Community

Page 528

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Genesis 1:27-28, 31a

Second Reading:

John 15:9-12

The Homily

The Wedding

Pages 530-532

Lighting of the Unity Candle

Signing of the Register

Prayers of the People

Page 533

The Blessing of the Marriage

Page 534

The Exchange of the Peace

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Page 535

The Lord's Prayer

Page 539

The Communion

Page 539

The Presentation of the Bride and Groom

Recessional Trumpet Voluntary

Wedding Fees

CHURCH: You have come to your Church to get married. Your church in turn is delighted to help in any way. Your church will work with you to ensure that this time in your lives is a special time. It will also be there to support you in your future life together. In turn your church asks for your support to help. The Parish of asks for a donation of \$250.00. This donation will help the church continue its work.

CLERGY: There is a \$125.00 fee to be provided to the clergy who performs the wedding service.

MUSIC: There is a \$125.00 fee for the Church Organist. If you wish to use another musician/s remuneration shall be set between the couple and the other musician/s.

CARETAKER: There is a \$50.00 fee for caretaker services.

Fees subject to change.

