



WEDDING CUSTOMARY

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Christ Church Cathedral

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church....The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God. Book of Common Prayer 1979

In this spirit, the Cathedral and the Harris Memorial Chapel are available for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for members of the parish listed in the current parish directory, and their immediate family members. Persons meeting these criteria should schedule a meeting with one of the Cathedral clergy to discuss policies and procedures with regard to scheduling a wedding.

Episcopalians in the Diocese of Louisiana who are not members of the Cathedral should have their rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge write a letter to the Dean requesting that the Cathedral celebrate their marriage.

On occasion, it is possible to schedule weddings for people outside of the Diocese of Louisiana who are active in their home parishes. To request that this take place, the potential candidates should ask their rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge write a letter to the Dean requesting that the Cathedral celebrate this marriage.

Once this letter has been received a Cathedral staff person will contact the potential bride or groom to schedule an initial appointment in order to discuss Cathedral wedding policies.

NO WEDDING IS PUT ON THE CATHEDRAL CALENDAR UNTIL THE INITIAL MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dalt' with a cross-like flourish at the end.

EFFECTIVE MAY 2005

WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL?

- All candidates must meet the requirements of the Episcopal Church, Christ Church Cathedral and the State of Louisiana.
- The Episcopal Church gives discretion to the clergy to assent or decline to officiate any marriage.
- We do not celebrate "covenant marriages" as defined by the State of Louisiana.
- Marriages involving divorce or annulment may be performed under certain circumstances. The process begins with meeting with the officiant to address reasons for divorce. A petition and copy of the final divorce decree for all parties must be submitted to the bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana for permission to remarry thirty days before the wedding day.

WHO MAY PERFORM A MARRIAGE IN THE CATHEDRAL?

- Clergy of the Cathedral will normally officiate all marriages at the Cathedral.
- Any other clergy requesting to officiate a wedding in the Cathedral must receive permission and an invitation from the Dean of the Cathedral (and the Bishop of Louisiana, if they are not canonically resident in the Diocese of Louisiana)
- Additional clergy being invited to assist the Cathedral clergy are at the discretion of the officiant.

STEPS FOR GETTING MARRIED AT THE CATHEDRAL.

1. Call the Cathedral to request an appointment with Canon Steven Roberts.
2. Meet with Canon Roberts to discuss feasibility, to obtain and review the Cathedral's wedding customary, to check for availability of proposed wedding date, and to sign the Declaration of Intent.
3. Meet with the parish administrator to review the Cathedral's financial policies and to finalize the date.
4. Begin premarital counseling with clergy.
5. Meet with the director of music about service music
6. Contact the wedding coordinator about flowers.
7. The balance of payment is due one month prior to the wedding.
8. Obtain Louisiana Marriage License and bring the license to the Cathedral one week before wedding.
9. Rehearsal (date and time to be arranged with Canon Roberts)

DATES AND TIME

- We cannot reserve a date without a meeting with a Cathedral clergy person.
- We do not perform any weddings during the seasons of Lent or Advent.
- Weddings begin no later than 7:00 pm

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

- Premarital counseling is required by the Episcopal Church. Usually 4 or 5 sessions determined by the clergy performing the counseling. Normally premarital counseling is conducted by the officiating priest. If you are parishioners of another Episcopal Church, we would recommend that the counseling be done by your parish priest.

THE CEREMONY

- The Marriage service used is the "Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage" as contained in the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*. The marriage service is to be prepared with clergy oversight.

THE MUSIC

- All music arrangements will be made directly with the director of music.
- Only sacred music is permitted.
- Music for weddings normally includes 30 minutes of pre-service music.
- Soloists or other musicians may be employed, if first approved by the Canon Precentor. One should expect to pay around \$150 per musician or soloist. Payment is paid directly to the musician or soloist via the director of music no later than the rehearsal date.

THE FLORIST

- Before obtaining a florist, consult with the Cathedral about flower requirements.
- All flower arrangements must be real, not artificial.
- The Altar is the focal point of the Cathedral. Flowers at the Altar are placed on Retable behind Altar on the sides of the cross. Arrangements should not be taller than the Altar cross.
- Flowers at the Altar are to remain at the Cathedral through Sunday.
- The only other permitted places for flowers are the Newal posts (by the steps into the Chancel) and on the aisle candles.

OTHER ITEMS

- Only the aisle candles provided by the Cathedral may be used.
- Aisle candles are not permitted in the chapel.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER

- Photographers and/or videographers must confer with the Officiant as to the wedding recording policies.
- There may be no flash photography or artificial lighting once the ceremony begins.
- The photographer or videographer is permitted on the side of the cancel or in the back of the cathedral, but may not be moving about the Cathedral during the ceremony.

Any Variations to stated policies and procedures must be made with the permission of the officiant.

WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET

Today's Date _____

Entered on Calendar _____

THE BRIDE

Full Name _____ D.O.B. _____

Address _____

Home _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ Marital Status _____

Parish _____

Parents' Full Names _____

THE GROOM

Full Name _____ D.O.B. _____

Address _____

Home _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ Marital Status _____

Parish _____

Parents' Full Names _____

----- **FOR OFFICE USE** -----

Wedding Place _____ Date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Deposit _____ Customary _____ Celebrant/Officiant _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Florist _____

Phone number _____

Photographer _____

Phone number _____

Videographer _____

Phone number _____

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

We, _____

and _____

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that the un union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

Groom

Bride

Priest