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# WEDDINGS AT TRINITY

## Introduction

Congratulations! To marry someone that you love is a great joy, and in the Episcopal Church it is a sacrament, an outward and visible sign of God's love. This manual has been put together to assist couples as they prepare to get married at Trinity. Please read it over carefully and confer with the clergy if you have any questions.

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two people in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church at least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; the ceremony must be attested by at least two witnesses; and the marriage must conform to State law and Church canons.

You do not have to officially become a member of Trinity in order to be married here. However, marriage is a public, Christian ritual in the context of the church as a community. So every couple is expected to at least "try out" the Trinity community by attending regular Sunday worship services in the months leading up to their marriage. (And we hope that couples find the joy and meaning that keeps them attending afterwards!)

Before renting a hall, hiring a photographer, or planning the event, the couple should approach the clergy and discuss a possible date. Arrangements will be made at that time for pre-marital counseling, a wedding and rehearsal date. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, we have found it best not to hold weddings at Trinity during Lent, the week before Christmas, and the two weeks before (and the weekend after) the Strawberry Festival (which is on Father's Day weekend).

## Logistics

**Service and Vows:** The Episcopal wedding service is found in the Book of Common Prayer. There is some flexibility to make additions and other decisions. During pre-marital counseling, the clergy will walk the couple through this service and tailor it as needed.

**Communion:** Communion is not required in the wedding service, but if you would like to have communion we will make it a welcoming experience for everybody.

**Wedding Rehearsal:** The wedding rehearsal is usually held the night before the wedding, but another night may be used. Please discuss with the clergy. The church musician (if being used), clergy, and altar guild will be in attendance at the rehearsal.

**Flowers:** To honor the sacred space of the altar area, we ask that only real flowers be placed there (though the bridal bouquet and boutonnieres may be artificial if desired). The best placement for flowers is one bouquet each on the 2 flower shelves (behind and to each side of the altar.) Please be sure to let your florist know that flower vases should fit comfortably on these shelves. If you have no use for these flowers after the wedding, we would appreciate keeping them to enjoy on Sunday morning, but this is not a requirement. Additional flower arrangements may be placed in the Parish Hall.

**Arches:** If an arch is set up, we have found it best to place it in the aisle at the very rear of the church so as not to hinder the view of those sitting in the pews. And please no arches in the altar area behind the altar rail.

**Runners:** Although this is not an absolute requirement, we strongly recommend not using a runner for the bride because it is a tripping hazard.

**Pews:** Pew bows may be tied on the pews, but please, no staples, nails, or tape. For pew candles, see below.

**Size of the Wedding:** Trinity can comfortably hold up to 250 people at a wedding, and slightly more than 300 have been accommodated on occasion. The front of the church has room for a wedding party of 18 or fewer (including bride and groom).

**Music:** Please discuss all music choices with the clergy before the wedding. The fee for our musician are in the back of this manual. Permission must be granted if you would like to bring in your own keyboard musician instead. The church also has an excellent sound system that is available to all couples.

**Photographers, Videographers:** No flash pictures are allowed during the wedding, and we ask that photographers and videographers check-in with clergy before setting up to ensure that the ceremony goes smoothly for all involved. Clergy can be available before and after the service for additional pictures if desired.

**Candles:** The Altar Guild can set up anywhere from 16-20 long candles (two 7 pronged candelabras behind the altar, and either two candles, if there is a Eucharist, or six candles if there is not Eucharist, on the Altar). If the couple so desires, 4 pew torches are also available. Fees are at the back of the manual.

**Alcohol:** When consumed responsibly, alcohol can contribute to a joyful occasion. However, alcohol use must be reserved to *after* the ceremony. Consuming alcohol or other drugs that impair the brain just before or during the marriage ceremony could result in the cancellation of the service.

**Bulletins:** The church would be happy to print your bulletins for you, as long as we have the information (and bulletin cover if you are supplying one) at least two weeks before the wedding. Fees are at the back of the manual. You may wish to print your own bulletins, which is fine too. Either way, please consult with the clergy on what should be included in the bulletin.

**Getting dressed at the Church:** Both the bride, bridesmaids, and groom are welcome to put on their wedding attire at the church. Please make arrangements with the clergy or main office.

**Departure:** The use of confetti, rice, birdseed or any similar material is prohibited inside and outside the building. If a festive "send-off" is desired, we recommend blowing bubbles or releasing butterflies *outside the church only*. (Some couples also use little bells.)

**Ushers:** We strongly recommend that you appoint at least two ushers for any wedding that has more than 30 people expected. Their tasks are to hand out bulletins, seat people as they come in, and handle any last minute chores. They should be at the rehearsal, and present at the church at least 45 minutes prior to the wedding.

**License:** Please bring the marriage license to the church at the rehearsal and leave it with the clergy. After it is signed on the wedding day, two copies will be mailed to the clerk's office, and one copy to the couple.

**The Parish Hall:** If the parish hall is desired, it may be used for the rehearsal dinner or the reception. Fees are at the end of the manual. Arrangements, especially set-up, decorations, and clean up must be made well in advance with the clergy.

## Fees

The couple is asked to bring all checks, made out as described below, to the rehearsal.

**Altar Guild:** A check for \$200 should be made out to "Trinity Altar Guild." This compensates the guild for its presence assisting the wedding party during both the rehearsal and the wedding. If pew torches are used, there is an additional fee of \$25.

**Bulletins:** If the church is printing bulletins, please make a check out to Trinity Episcopal Church for \$10 for every 50 bulletins. There is a minimum fee of \$20 for bulletin printing. If you would prefer to print your own bulletins, the priest can provide a template.

**Musician:** The fee for the church musician is \$150. The check should be made out to the musician. The musician will be at the rehearsal.

**Parish Hall:** If the parish hall is used, a fee arrangement should be made with the clergy. The minimum fee is \$200. Clean up should be arranged. Please contact the Building Use Committee.

**Clergy:** Clergy at Trinity do not charge for weddings. If you wish to make a financial gift, please make the check out to Trinity Episcopal Church and write "Rector's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line.