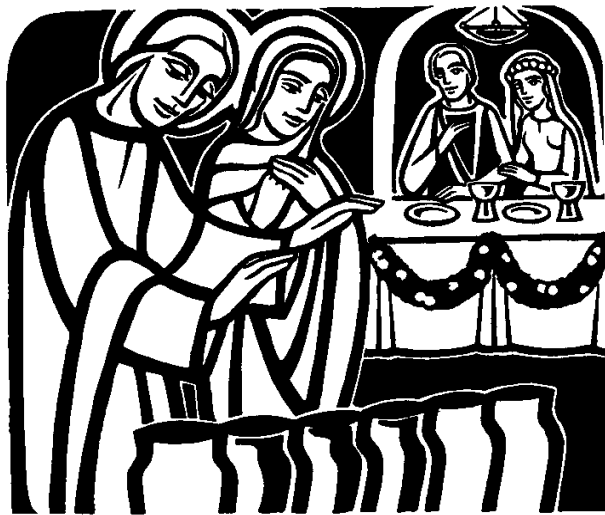


THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
Parish of St Michael & All Angels

6 St. Clare Avenue at LeMarchant Road
St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 6N4
www.michaelmas.ca stmichael@nf.aibn.com

*Regulations for Marriage
in the Church*



AND HE MANIFESTED HIS GLORY

*"...the two will become one flesh."
Ephesians 5.31*

Parish of St. Michael & All Angels

St. John's, Newfoundland

Weddings & Marriages

Did you ever notice how many people are needed for two people to be married? So many people are involved in these things - the license, certificates, parish register, invitations, announcements, wedding garments, the reception, the rehearsal, decorating the Church, bouquets, wedding presents, and all the rest? Then there are bridesmaids, ushers, the maid-of-honour, the best man, the father of the bride, organists and singers, the clergy, the altar guild, sexton, and the photographer. It can be said that a wedding really involves a whole community.

The Prayer Book office for the Solemnization of Matrimony is intended to be a parish service in which all of the members of the parish are interested and to which all are invited by virtue of their membership. When a wedding takes place in a Church, it is, like all other Church services, a service of worship. The local social customs and traditions should never obscure the fact that the wedding is in Church in order that the congregation may praise God on this joyous occasion and seek his blessing upon this new unit of society and, we pray, a new Christian family.

No matter how simple or how elaborate a wedding may be, community and parish, state and Church combine to start the new bride and groom off on their new life together. It cannot really be a private affair. Since we are independent human beings we have many opinions, tastes and wishes in regard to everything concerning a wedding, but the state and the Church have rules about who may be married, and how they may be married. Experience shows that these rules, sometimes contrary to social custom or personal whim, often save us from embarrassing situations.

Weddings are one thing, but *marriage* is something altogether different. The wedding is the outward and visible, exciting sign of an inward and spiritual grace, the union of two people. In spite of elaborate preparations, a wedding is a matter of moments while marriage is a life-long way of living. If we need great preparations for a wedding, how much more preparation do we need to make a marriage last a lifetime?

On Marriage in the Church

Introduction

The Anglican Church of Canada affirms according to our Lord's teaching as found in Holy Scripture and expressed in the form of Solemnization of Matrimony in *The Book of Common Prayer*, that Marriage is a life long union of a man and woman in faithful love, for better or for worse to the exclusion of all others on either side. This union is established by God's grace when two duly qualified persons enter into a contract of marriage in which they declare their intention of fulfilling it's purposes and exchange vows to be faithful to one another until death separates them. The purposes of marriage are mutual fellowship, support and comfort, the procreation (if it may be) and nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfilment in a community of faithful love.

This contract is made in the presence of witnesses and of an authorized minister. This view of Marriage implies an area of responsibility greater than the mere performance of a ceremony in Church.

Where the blessing of the Church is sought, it follows that there must be an understanding and an acceptance of certain conditions and standards.

This booklet is to be used as a guide to help those making preparations for marriage within this Parish of St. Michael and All Angels, St. John's.

Prerequisites for Marriage

Notice of at least 60 days shall be given to the Rector before the day proposed for the wedding, (except that the minister may at his discretion waive this requirement for sufficient cause in which case he shall notify the Bishop in writing, stating the reason for this decision.) This notice is required for several good reasons:

- a) In order that opportunity may be provided for the clergy to meet with the couple.
- b) In order that there may be opportunity to attend a marriage preparation course.
- c) So that Banns may be called. (an old custom, but no longer required by the civil law).

Civil Authority

The Solemnization of Matrimony Act 1974 (amended 1976) now requires that a Licence be procured and that it be in the hands of the officiating priest not less than four days before the ceremony.

Marriage of Divorced Persons

Permission to Remarry according to the Rites of the Anglican Church of Canada may be granted for a divorced person whose former partner is living. Such permission is given by the Bishop upon the recommendation of the Rector, after adequate preparation and pastoral counselling. "Permission to remarry...should be based on a reasonable belief that the applicants understand the nature of Christian marriage...and intend to enter into such a marriage, and reasonable hope that they will continue in that relationship during their joint lives." (Canon 21.27)

The Time of Marriage

The date and time ought not to be set before consultation with the Rector. The Church discourages weddings during Lent and on no account are marriages celebrated during Passion Week and Holy Week.

Who Officiates

"The Rector of the Parish shall be responsible for the conduct of the marriage service." Arrangements for the wedding including music, flowers, Sexton and Organist shall be made through the Rector.

In any Parish other than that to which he is Licensed the officiating Priest must have obtained the consent of the Rector of the Parish in which the marriage is to be solemnized.

It will be the Rector's prerogative to extend the invitation to a visiting priest or minister.

The Liturgy in Church

The Marriage Services as found in *The Book of Common Prayer* and *The Book of Alternative Services* are the only rites authorised for use in this diocese. Couples who are both communicants of the Church should consider the Rubric on page 571 of *The Book of Common Prayer*, "It is fitting that the newly married couple should receive the Holy Communion at the time of their marriage..."

Music for the Liturgy

Hymns or Anthems sung at the Service shall be only those which may be found in Holy Scripture, in *The Book of Common Prayer* or *The Book of Common Praise* (the Hymn Book), or in Texts approved by Ecclesiastical authority. Popular songs with a secular tone are not appropriate in the worship of the Church. Wedding liturgies are services of public worship. This fact should be borne in mind as preparations are made. (See the appended list of suggested music).

The decision whether to have music or not to have music is made by the couple.

When music is desired, the Organist shall be the Church Organist or Assistant. Exception may sometimes be made but only after consultation with the Rector and with the approval of the Parish Organist.

The church can supply a soloist and others should not be invited before consultation with the Rector and Church Organist.

Other Information

'Mixed' Marriages Anglicans, being Catholic, should not sign any document that denies this fact, nor make any promise regarding the future religious upbringing of children that may be born of the marriage.

Flowers for the occasion maybe provided, however they must be fresh-cut flowers for use in the Altar vases. Artificial flowers are not encouraged.

The Altar Guild is usually responsible for the arrangement of flowers. When given, the flowers become the property of the Church and must not be removed. It is appropriate for flowers to be placed in memory of departed loved ones.

Pews to be reserved for guests may be marked with ribbon. Please use tape and not tacks.

Confetti and/or rice etc., are not to be used.

Pictures may be taken, and video and tape recordings made but *only after consultation with the Rector* and then only from a fixed position.

Attendants It is suggested that Flower Girls and Ring Bearers be of an age and ability to perform. (At least four years of age.)

Concerning Receptions If the clergy are expected to attend, they should receive an invitation.

When choosing a Master of Ceremonies and responders to toasts at the wedding, care should be taken to assure that your guests are not subjected to "off-colour" humour. It is not only disrespectful to those invited but also degrading to the couple and it certainly places everyone in an embarrassing situation.

In a sacramental setting there is no greater symbol of unity than the Holy Communion with the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ. Anything else degrades the Eucharist and is not in order. No ceremony can supercede or take the place of the Eucharist as a symbol and pledge of unity. Lighting of nuptial candles is therefore more fitting and suggested as a ceremony for the Reception, similar to the cutting of the cake.

Scale of Fees

Organist: \$150.00

Soloist: \$75.00 to \$100

Sexton: \$25.00

The clergy charge no specific fee. **However, at your discretion an honorarium is customary.**

If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish of St. Michael & All Angels, a donation to the parish is also appropriate at the time of your wedding.

PLEASE NOTE: The fees ought to be placed in individually marked envelopes and given to the Officiant at the rehearsal.

**Some Suitable Music
for Marriage Liturgies**

The Book of Common Praise (The Hymn Book)

- 261 The Voice That Breathed Over Eden
- 261a We Lift Our Hearts O Father
- 262 O Perfect Love
- 340 O Happy Home
- 393 Praise to the Lord
- 407 Lead Us Heavenly Father
- 429 O God of Bethel
- 470 Love Divine
- 484 O Holy Spirit Lord of Grace
- 539 The King of Love
- 547 The Lord's My Shepherd
- 560 May the Grace of Christ

(Hymns 287-289 in the new Canadian Hymn Book *Common Praise*, are also appropriate)

The organist will assist in selecting other suitable vocal and instrumental music.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

We _____ and _____, hereby declare that we intend to enter into marriage which we acknowledge to be a union in faithful love, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for better or for worse, until we are separated by death.

We undertake to prepare ourselves for the exchange of vows at our wedding, recognizing that by this mutual exchange our union in marriage will be established.

We intend to strive together to fulfil the purposes of marriage: the mutual fellowship, support, and comfort of one another, the procreation (if it may be) and the nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfilment in a community of faithful love.

Man: _____ Woman: _____

Witness: _____
(Rector)

Date: _____