

INTERFAITH AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL MARRIAGES

1. Clergy must consult with and have the permission of the Bishop of the Diocese prior to consenting to participate in or perform marriages of persons where one of the partners is not a baptized Christian.

2. In marriages between Anglican and Roman Catholic partners, consideration is to be given to the document: Pastoral guidelines for Inter-Church Marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Canada.

3. At the invitation of the Rector, licensed clergy of other Christian denominations may participate in the wedding.

REARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH



1. Following the Canons and Guidelines of the Anglican Church of Canada, remarriage is permitted. Couples for remarriage experience particular opportunities and challenges and often bring together children to form a blended family. This requires the pastoral support and care of the church. A remarriage can be an occasion to renew and strengthen a relationship with the church.

2. A remarriage within the Church can be considered upon the completion of all divorce proceedings and the granting of a certificate of divorce from due authority.

3. The Rector of the Parish in which the marriage is to occur, shall assist the couple in the preparation for remarriage in dialogue with the bishop.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal usually takes place the night before the wedding. The bride and groom, attendants, the person who is walking the bride up the aisle, flower girl, ring-bearer and ushers should attend. Parents are welcome.

CONFETTI OR RICE

Confetti or rice are not to be used under any circumstances in the building or on church grounds.

FEES AND HONORARIUM

The cost of holding your wedding in the church supports the life and ministry of the parish. Church fees include costs related to the rehearsal and wedding day, including utilities, the cleaning and use of the church. There are also a cost involved in having an organist. The fees will be discussed with the Rector at the initial meeting, at which time the couple will agree to the guidelines set forth.

There is no fee for the clergy, however, it is customary for the clergy to be given an honorarium, given the time and commitment of the Rector to assist you in preparing and celebrating your wedding. The honorarium will be discussed with the Rector during the initial meeting.

If you have not been a regular contributor to the parish, consider the people who have given generously of their time and money so that you, your family and friends can hold your wedding in this beautiful and historic facility that was restored in 2005, following the devastating fire of 2001.

Now, on the occasion of your wedding, you have an opportunity to express your gratitude by the respect you show the building and furnishings, and by the contribution you make to the church.

All fees and the clergy honorarium should be placed in separate marked envelopes and given to the priest the night of the rehearsal.

We pray that God's blessings be with you, as you prepare to celebrate your wedding at St. John's.



This information is taken from the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Guidelines of the Diocese of NS & PEI and the Parish of St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg, NS

Holy Matrimony

*Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of NS & PEI*



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WELCOME

Historic St. John's Parish is delighted that you desire to celebrate your marriage with us. The following Guidelines are offered to assist you in preparing for your wedding.

ACHURCH WEDDING

Church weddings are for Christian people who have made their commitment to God and desire a Christian marriage. At least one of the couple must be a baptized member of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The celebration of a marriage will often lead to a deeper relationship with Christ and a renewed relationship with the church. You make your marriage vows before God, the parish Rector, and the congregation in a public service of worship. The Marriage Service is planned with the couple and the parish priest, so that the words and music express their Christian beliefs.

If you cannot agree with this proposal, then you have the option of a civil ceremony.

HOLY MATRIMONY

The Anglican Church affirms that according to the Lord's teaching, Holy Matrimony is a life-long union, voluntarily undertaken by a man and a woman, and sanctified by God. [St. Matthew 19:3-6] The "Form of Solemnization of Matrimony" in *The Book of Common Prayer* [p.563] and "The Celebration and the Blessing of a Marriage" in *The Book of Alternative Services* [p.541] are provided for the marriage of baptized Christians. [If one of the persons to be married is not baptized, permission of the Diocesan Bishop shall be obtained before the marriage may take place. Opportunity is to be provided for preparation for Baptism, if desired.] If neither person is baptized, the marriage may not proceed.

ECCLESIASTICAL & CIVIL AUTHORITY

Marriage shall take place in an Anglican Church where the Officiate is licensed by both the Diocesan Bishop and Civil authority. Recent changes to Canon Law allow for a marriage to take place outside of the church, with the permission of the Rector and the Bishop.

REQUIRED NOTICE

Canon Law requires that the parish be given at least 60 days notice before the day proposed for the marriage.

LICENSE & BANNIS

A Provincial Marriage License must be obtained by the couple, and delivered to the parish office at least two weeks before the marriage. Banns may be published on the request of the Bride and Groom in the Church in which the marriage is to take place.

INTERVIEW WITH THE RECTOR

Every couple intending to marry in the Parish shall meet with the Rector before booking the day and time of the wedding and rehearsal. Several interviews may take place and will include planning the Service and completing such forms as are required by Civil Law and Canon Law.

THE DISCRETION OF THE RECTOR

The discretion of the Rector to decline to solemnize any particular marriage is affirmed.

PREMARITAL PREPARATION

The Rector shall insure that those who are seeking marriage receive a premarital program in which the meaning and nature of Christian marriage and family life are presented; and the need of God's Grace in the daily pursuit of this ideal is made known. Several marriage preparation programs are offered throughout the Diocese. A suitable option for each couple will be discussed with the Rector.



SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

The Service shall be taken from the liturgical texts as approved by the Anglican Church of Canada.

Appropriate scripture readings shall be chosen by the couple and the Rector. It is desirable that family and friends participate in the liturgy by taking an active part in the readings, prayers and music. Couples are encouraged to include the 'Unity Candle', if so desired.

Hymns, music and all other arrangements relating to the ceremony must be discussed with and approved by the Rector. Sacred music expresses the faith we confess and the relationship of human love to the love of God. Sentimental love songs are more appropriate for the reception. Choices for hymns and solos can be found in the hymn books in use in the parish and in discussion with the parish organist.

St. John's has an historic chime of ten bells. Couples often delight in having these played on their wedding day. Arrangements for this can be made through the parish office.



HOLY COMMUNION

Couples are encouraged to celebrate their wedding in the context of the Holy Eucharist.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

The wedding photographer shall discuss photo arrangements with the Rector. Photos by family and friends shall not be taken during the ceremony, but may be taken entering and leaving the church, and during the signing of the register. Video recordings shall use a tripod.

FLOWERS

Suitable flowers and decorations should be arranged with the Rector. Flowers are normally left in the church for the Sunday Service.

PENITENTIAL SEASONS

The Church discourages marriages during Penitential Seasons, especially Lent.