

TRINITY PARISH

Wedding
Guidelines



215 ST. GEORGE ST.
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32084
904.824.2876
trinityepiscopalparish.org



Table of Contents

<i>General</i>	3
<i>Ceremony</i>	4
<i>Decorations</i>	5
<i>Music</i>	5
<i>Reception</i>	6
<i>Fees</i>	6



The Rt. Rev. Samuel J. Howard, Bishop, Diocese of Florida

The Rev. Canon Eddie E. Jones, Jr., Interim Rector

The Rev. Ken Herzog, Assistant Rector

Jon Gates, Director of Music

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, according to the rites and customs of the Episcopal Church, is a Sacrament in which a couple enters a covenantal relationship with one another and with the Lord as an integral part of their marriage relationship. The sacramental nature of Christian Marriage makes it necessary to require preparation prior to the ceremony in order to help equip the couple to be able to maintain a Christian Marriage. With this in mind, Trinity Episcopal Parish holds these standards for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.



CANONS AND PRACTICES

THE MARRIAGE OF A NONMEMBER CAN BE ARRANGED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE RECTOR. THE POLICY PERTAINING TO BAPTISM IS IN EFFECT.

Please note it is the policy of the present Bishop of the Diocese of Florida that the Sacrament of marriage between same sex couples is not permitted. Those couples desiring to be married will be referred to a nearby diocese where this ceremony can be performed.

AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUPLE TO BE MARRIED MUST BE A BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN.

Trinity requires three months notice prior to the planned date of the ceremony. The date should not be set by the couple prior to consultation with a Priest of this Parish.

Four or more premarital counseling sessions will be required. **In the case of couples living outside the immediate area, premarital counseling should be arranged with a local minister, with a letter being sent to the Rector of Trinity from that minister stating satisfactory completion of the counseling.**

In accordance with Canon Law and due to the serious nature of the marriage vows, with the expectation of a life-long commitment to the marriage, Clergy reserve the right to decline to celebrate a marriage.

Marriages are not celebrated during the season of Lent.

In the case of those marriages in which one or both parties have been previously married, there are special Canons which apply.



The divorce must have been finalized for a **minimum** of one year, **after** which time application must be made through the Priest of this Parish to the Bishop of the Diocese. If the Bishop gives consent to the marriage, premarital counseling will still be required (see #3 above). It is important that the divorced person demonstrates that appropriate obligations to the former partner are in place (such as child support, etc.). A copy of the final divorce decree will be required at the time of the initial application to the Bishop.

In the case of a proposed third marriage, in which the former marriages have ended in divorce, we usually will not celebrate the marriage. If the couple chooses to have a civil marriage, this marriage may be blessed after an appropriate time in which it has become evident that this relationship is stable and intended to be permanent and is approved by the Bishop.



**KING STREET
ENTRANCE**

THE CEREMONY

Appropriate church attire is expected at the wedding rehearsal. This precludes shorts and halter dresses.

The marriage license must be given to the Priest no later than the Rehearsal. The license must be purchased more than 3 days prior to the wedding to eliminate mandated State of Florida counseling.

In all weddings in the Episcopal Church, the Priest is to be consulted on all matters of ceremony. Others may participate in the planning process, provided it is understood that the Priest has the responsibility to decide what is or is not theologically and liturgically appropriate to the celebration of this Sacrament. In all cases, the Priest will direct the rehearsal with the assistance of Trinity's wedding coordinator. Trinity Parish has a wedding coordinator who will assist with all the details of the ceremony.

Other Priests of this communion or ministers from another denomination may be allowed by the Priest of this Parish to participate in the ceremony, upon the request of the people to be married.



The normal context of the celebration and blessing of a marriage is that of the Holy Eucharist. As with all celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, all baptized Christians will be invited to share in communion.

Since the Celebration of the Marriage is a Sacrament, **NO PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE TAKEN DURING THE CEREMONY**. Opportunity will be given after the service. Videotaping is acceptable if accomplished in a discreet manner, with available lighting, following guidelines set forth by the Priest ahead of time. Only 15 minutes will be allowed for pictures after the wedding.

CHURCH DECORATIONS

Flowers and candles for a wedding will be consistent with those used at a Sunday Communion Service. This excludes excessive candelabra, unity candles, white carpets, and additional flowers. The Altar Guild is responsible for the arrangement of flowers on the Altar. In the case of weddings which fall in the seasons of Christmas and Easter, the church will already be decorated in keeping with the season and will not be changed. The wedding coordinator will assist with the details concerning flowers and other decorations.

No bird seed or rice may be thrown after the wedding.

No flower petals may be thrown in the procession.

No food or drink is allowed in the Church Sanctuary.

MUSIC

The Episcopal Church is liturgical and its worship services are directed by Canons and traditions. Trinity Parish reflects these rules in its guidelines concerning music. The music, as suggested by the Organist, will add beauty, grace, solemnity, and spirituality to the occasion. Music must be from the Hymnal, Prayer Book, or directly from the Holy Scripture. Texts of a secular or semi-religious source are not permitted. Hymn singing at weddings is considered appropriate.



The Organist must be consulted before making any plans for wedding music. If the Church Organist is unavailable for a wedding, he will make arrangements for a qualified substitute. If the couple desires a particular Organist, approval of Trinity's Organist is required.

If a soloist is desired, the Organist must be consulted prior to making arrangements. The solo pieces must also be approved.

The Organist plays a fifteen minute prelude-recital before the wedding, the processional music, music at the offertory, the communion, and at the recessional from the Church. The secular "traditional" wedding music of Mendelssohn and Wagner is discouraged. There are many other choices more suitable for church weddings, which the Organist will recommend.

RECEPTION

It is understood that every member of this parish is invited to all weddings in the Church. This does not include the reception.

If the reception is held in the Parish Hall, champagne and wine may be served, but no other alcoholic beverages. Non-alcoholic beverages must be made available.

FEES—Due 60 Days Prior To Ceremony

Use of Church: \$1,400.00 (nonrefundable deposit of \$700 is due seven (7) days after the Rector agrees to place the Wedding date on the Church calendar. **Check made payable to Trinity Episcopal Parish.**

Altar Guild (flowers, candles, communion, etc.): \$200.00 made payable to Trinity Episcopal Parish. (Flowers to remain on altar.)

Off Duty Police Officer: \$105 (up to 3 hours) made payable to Trinity Episcopal Parish.

Priest: \$500.00, made payable to the Officiating Priest.

Organist: \$200.00, made payable to Jon Gates.

Sexton: \$200.00, made payable to Chris Bodor.

Wedding Administrator: \$100.00, made payable to Susan Lieberman.

Note: All checks must be received and cleared before your Wedding.



The magnificent organ in the Church is a primary source of music for weddings. Four centuries of sacred organ music is available from which you may make your selections, and the Church organ sets forth this music in a thrilling fashion.

Suggested Music – *Now we Thank All Our God; Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; Lord of All Hopefulness; Praise to the Lord; O Praise Ye the Lord; Come Down, O Love Divine; Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken; Christ is Made the Sure Foundation; Take My Life and Let it Be; Holy God, We Praise Thy Name; The King of Love My Shepherd is.*

Solo Music – These represent a few examples of the songs that are available to be sung at weddings: *God is My Shepherd* – Dvorak; *He Shall Feed His Flock* – Handel; *O Lord Most Holy* – Franck; *The Lord is My Shepherd* – Matthews; *If With All Your Hearts* – Mendelssohn; *O Perfect Love* – Barnby; *The Greatest of These is Love* – Bitgood; *Lead Me Lord* – Wesley.

The use of any texts associated with funeral music, such as Ave Maria, are not appropriate, nor are the settings of the Lord's Prayer which is to be said by the people in the Liturgy.



Organ Music at Processions

suggested: *Festival Entrada* – Thiman; *Rigaudon* – Campra; *Psalm Nineteen* – Marcello; *Aria in F Major* – Handel; *Trumpet Voluntary in D* – Purcell; *Now Thank We All Our God* – Karg-Elert; *Choral Song* – Wesley; *Canon in D* – Pachelbel; Hymn Improvisations.