

The Parish of the Good Shepherd (Mount Pearl, Newfoundland)

Regulations and Guidelines for the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony

1. The Clergy are to be consulted well in advance of a proposed wedding (most couples today begin planning their wedding a year or more in advance). Diocesan policy requires a minimum of 60 days notice before a marriage ceremony can be conducted.

2. A marriage license is required by law and the marriage shall be solemnized only within a period of 30 days immediately following the issue of the license. The Church Office can advise you where to obtain the necessary marriage license. There is a waiting period of 5 days from the time a couple applies for a license and when it is issued. The marriage license must then be presented to the priest not less than 4 days before the ceremony. The couple will therefore need to apply for the license at least 9 days before the wedding. It will be the responsibility of the couple to be married to see that the priest receives the marriage license on time. Many couples finalize their plans for the ceremony at the same time that they bring the license to the priest. The Application for Marriage from the parish must also be returned to the priest no later than the time that the marriage license is returned.

3. Marriage is forbidden to any person under the age of 16 years (except as provided by Section 12, Subsection 3 of the Solemnization of Marriage Act). Minors (under the age of 19) require the written consent of a parent or guardian in order to be married.

4. At least one of the individuals to be married is required to be a member of the Anglican Church of Canada.

5. Marriages are not solemnized between Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday (i.e. the two weeks preceding Easter).

6. If special flowers are desired in the Sanctuary, the Altar Guild must be consulted. Flowers may be placed near the Chancel steps at the discretion of the clergy. Pew ribbons/markers are also permitted in the church with the permission of the clergy. The church will normally be available one hour before the ceremony is due to begin to allow individuals to do this. All pew-markers, pens, candles and other items placed in the church are to be removed immediately following the service. The parish will not assume responsibility for items left behind after the wedding.

7. The official church organist will play at all weddings. If a visiting organist plays, it must be with the approval of the church organist who will still be paid for her services. Sacred music only is permitted in the church. Secular songs and popular music with no religious meaning will not be allowed. A list of suggested music is included. All couples are expected to discuss their choice of music with the church organist.

8. Fees: Officiating Priest - \$125

Organist - \$100 (Includes one rehearsal. Extra rehearsals are \$15 each.)

Sexton - \$50

Couples who are not contributing members of the parish are asked to give a "Thank Offering" to support the work of the parish. The amount is left to their discretion.

*It is expected that couples will place the various fees in separate envelopes with the appropriate names on them and give them to the officiating priest **no later** than the night of the rehearsal so he can distribute them.*

9. In terms of the types of services available, there are four options:

The Book of Alternative Services (without the Holy Eucharist)

The Book of Alternative Services (with the Holy Eucharist)

The Book of Common Prayer (without the Holy Eucharist)

The Book of Common Prayer (with the Holy Eucharist)

Suggested formats for each of the services are included. There are also options within each of the ceremonies for family members or friends to read from scripture or lead a prayer. A list of suggested readings is also included. A Gospel Reading is also included in all marriage ceremonies. It is expected that couples will discuss their preferences with the priest in advance of their rehearsal.

10. If a printed program for the wedding is desired, it should be approved by the priest before it is printed so that everything is in the proper order.

11. Marriage is a sacrament of the church. For that reason, photographs are forbidden except at the following times: the entrance of the groom and the bride, the exchange of rings, the lighting of the Unity Candle, the signing of the Marriage Register, and on leaving the church. The members of the congregation are asked **not** to take photographs during the ceremony. All pictures will be the responsibility of the official wedding photographer. A video camera may be used but it must be stationary and located at a place

designated by the priest. The wedding photographer and the person responsible for the video are asked to speak with the officiating priest either in person or by telephone before the marriage ceremony begins.

12. Confetti or rice is not to be thrown in the church or on the church steps.

13. The date and the time for the rehearsal must be discussed with the officiating priest. The only persons required at the rehearsal are those who are actually doing something in the ceremony (i.e. Maid of Honor, Best Man, Ring Bearer, Flower Girl, etc.)

14. All couples will be advised of Marriage Preparation Courses conducted by the Diocese. The decision to attend will be at the discretion of the Officiating Priest and the couple.

15. Clergy of other denominations may be permitted to participate in the marriage ceremony with the approval of the officiating priest. If they participate, it is appropriate that they be given the same fee as the officiating priest.

16. Proposed weddings involving individuals who have been divorced will be at the discretion of the Officiating Priest. Occasionally, the approval of the Ecclesiastical Matrimonial Commission may be required. In such cases, at least two interviews will be necessary as part of the process. Couples must ensure that they contact the parish priest in adequate time for their completed application to go before the Ecclesiastical Matrimonial Commission.

17. In the event that younger children are present among the guests at the wedding ceremony it will be the responsibility of their parents or guardians to ensure that they act in an appropriate manner during the church service.

Suggested Formats for Wedding Programs

(Solos and music may be inserted at appropriate points such as between the readings and/or during the lighting of the Unity Candle, and/or during the signing of the Marriage Register. Please discuss this with the priest and/or the organist.)

Book of Alternative Service without Holy Eucharist

Musical Prelude
Processional
Gathering of the Community
The Proclamation of the Word
The Wedding
Exchange of Vows
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer
Lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
Blessing of the Marriage
The Peace
Signing of the Marriage Register
Presentation of the Bride and Groom
Recessional

Book of Alternative Services with Holy Eucharist

Musical Prelude
Processional
Gathering of the Community
The Proclamation of the Word
The Wedding
Exchange of Vows
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Prayers of the People
Lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
Blessing of the Marriage
The Peace
Signing of the Marriage Register
The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist
Presentation of the Bride and Groom
Recessional

Book of Common Prayer without Holy Eucharist

Musical Prelude
Processional
The Gathering of the Community
The Proclamation of the Word
The Wedding
The Exchange of Vows
The Blessing and Exchange of Rings
The Prayers
Lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
The Blessing of the Marriage
Signing of the Marriage Register
Presentation of the Bride and Groom
Recessional

Book of Common Prayer with Holy Eucharist

Musical Prelude
Processional
The Gathering of the Community
The Proclamation of the Word
The Wedding
The Exchange of Vows
The Blessing and Exchange of Rings
The Prayers
Lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
The Blessing of the Marriage
Signing of the Marriage Register
The Communion
Presentation of the Bride and Groom
Recessional

Introduction of Readings (Examples only)

For the Book of Alternative Services:

At the beginning of a Reading: **“A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.”**

At the end: **“The Word of the Lord.”**

The people respond: **“Thanks be to God.”**

At the Beginning of the Gospel: **“The Lord be with you.”**

The people respond: **“And also with you.”**

The reader then says: **“The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.”**

The people respond: **“Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”**

At the end of the Gospel the reader says: **“The Gospel of Christ.”**

The people respond: **“Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”**

For the Book of Common Prayer:

At the beginning of a reading: **“The first reading is written in the 13th chapter of the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, beginning at the first verse.”**

At the end: **“Here endeth the first reading.”**

At the beginning of the Gospel: **“The Holy Gospel is written in the 10th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark, beginning at the 6th verse.”**

The people respond: **“Glory be to thee, O Lord.”**

At the end of the Gospel the reader says: **“The Gospel of Christ.”**

The people respond: **“Praise be to thee, O Christ.”**

Suggested Readings and Psalms for Wedding Liturgies

Old Testament and New Testament Readings:

- Genesis 1:27-28, 31a
- Romans 12:1-2, 9-13
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Ephesians 3:14-19
- Colossians 3:12-17
- 1 John 4:7-12

Psalms: #67

#112:1-6

#148:1-6

#150

Gospel Readings:

Matthew 5:1-10

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

Suggestions of Music for Marriage Liturgies

Solos:	Be Our Chief Guest, Lord	And On This Day
	Wedding Song (There is Love)	Be Thou With Them (J.S. Bach)
	Whither Thou Goest I Will Go	Walk Hand In Hand
	I'll Walk Beside You	Ave Maria (Schubert)
	Ave Maria (Gounod)	Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring
	The Lord's Prayer (Malotte)	Wedding Prayer
	I Give To You My Love	Bridal Prayer
	The Irish Wedding Song	Lead Us Together In Your Way
	God, A Woman And A Man	My Peace
	Only God Could Love You More	Take My Hand
	Two Candles	

Bridal Party Entrance:	Trumpet Voluntary (Purcell)	Bridal March from “Lohengrin”
	Martial Air (Handel)	Canon in “D” (Pachelbel)

Bridal Party Recessional:	Wedding March (Mendelssohn)	Martial Air (Handel)
	Trumpet Voluntary (Purcell)	