



THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

AT

CHRIST CHURCH + WASHINGTON PARISH

We are so pleased you are interested in celebrating your marriage with us at Christ Church. Please see below for details and email office@washingtonparish.org with questions.

How to Schedule

We require a minimum of sixty (60) days' notice of the intention to be married, though earlier notification is strongly urged. Please schedule your wedding date with us prior to booking any other arrangements as we cannot guarantee church availability.

Premarital Counseling

At the mutual convenience of the couple and the priest, a series of meetings will be scheduled for instruction and sharing about marriage. These sessions are included in your venue fee payment.

Wedding Planning

All wedding planning will be conducted in partnership with the priest performing the service. The wedding vows must be from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979 of the Episcopal Church, in accordance with our Diocesan guidance. Readings may be selected from Holy Scripture and other sources, and the couple may choose their own readers. The Church will be happy to prepare a simple bulletin (leaflet) for the service as long as final decisions are given one month prior to the ceremony.

Together with the couple, the priest can also advise the couple regarding the Holy Eucharist, the central service of the Episcopal Church. Should you desire to include Holy Communion as part of your service, all people present are welcome to come forward to receive, but should they prefer a blessing, that is also available. It is not uncommon for two people of varying faith traditions to marry in our Church, in which case, they may choose not to incorporate the Holy Eucharist in their ceremony.

Presiding Priest

Weddings at Christ Church will be performed by our Rector or Assistant Rector as schedules allow. Christ Church will consider performing the wedding and marital counseling of non-members based on availability, but the fee for such an instance would be \$500 (independent from any venue fees.) Should the couple request the participation



of another clergy member, the approval of the Rector is required. There are also many roles that family members or friends can perform during the service, and the Rector would be happy to guide you through those.

Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is typically scheduled for the evening prior to the wedding, and should be attended by all participants of the wedding, such as any readers, ushers, and the wedding party, including any children who may participate. An hour-long rehearsal is included in any venue fees.

In addition, the couple must present a valid **marriage license** from the District of Columbia at the rehearsal. The clergy will not perform any wedding without the license.

Flowers, Candles and other Decorations

All decorations in the Church will be under the direction of the Rector and subject to approval. Flowers placed on the Altar for a wedding can remain on the Altar for Sunday services if desired (in which case recognition would be given in our bulletin.)

Music

Couples are free to select their own music, though final determination about appropriateness rests with the Rector and the Associate for Music Ministries. A meeting with the Associate for Music Ministries to plan music for the wedding should be scheduled at the earliest possible date following the first meeting with the Rector. Any additional musicians must be approved by the Rector prior to booking.

Photographs

Any professional or amateur photographs taken during the course of the service will be by permission of the Rector. High-speed photography is allowed from the rear of the church, in the balcony or behind the first pew. Videotaping is allowed, using available light. Following the service, pictures (with flash) may be posed in the church for a brief period of time.

Additional Information

The Church seats about 180 persons comfortably. Both the Sanctuary and Parish Hall are air-conditioned. The wedding party should arrive for the wedding already dressed as the Church does not have any dressing space.



Use of Parish Hall for Receptions or Rehearsal Dinners

If the Parish Hall is to be used for the rehearsal dinner or reception, please schedule a time to meet with the Parish Administrator and their caterer early enough to decide if the space will accommodate the reception. The Parish Hall seats 130 comfortably for dinner. The Parish Hall has a sound system and the kitchen is adequate for a caterer's use. The caterer or wedding party should provide all paper products and consumables. At the end of the reception, all trash should be bagged, any leftover food removed, and the area left as neat as possible. All events and clean-up must be concluded by 11 p.m.

Fees

The Sacraments, pastoral ministrations and other rites of the Church are neither for sale nor given or withheld on the basis of wealth or lack of it. Individual needs may be discussed with the Rector and no one is turned away for lack of funds.

A non-refundable deposit of \$250 is required to hold a date, and all other fees are due at least two weeks prior to the date of the wedding.

Category of Fees	non-Members	Members
Venue Fee	\$750	\$500
Music Director/Organist	\$450	\$350
Sexton for wedding only	\$150	\$100
Sexton for wedding and reception	\$250	\$150
Use of parish hall/kitchen for reception	\$275	\$50
Premarital counseling & wedding fee for clergy	\$500	*
Admin Fee	\$50	*
Gift to participating clergy	—optional but welcome—	

Payment to the organist should be addressed to Richard Thibadeau; to the Sexton addressed to Kevin Lindsay; and all other payment directed to Christ Church+ Washington Parish(or pay online at washingtonparish.org/donate.)

More on our understanding of Christian Marriage

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two people working to their utmost ability and strengthened by God to establish a life-long relationship of love and mutual support. The Church counts marriage as one of the sacramental rites of the Episcopal Church, as well as being a natural state and a civil matter. The ministers of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony are the couple themselves. The priest conducting the service is present to witness the vows on behalf of the Church and the District of





Columbia; to pronounce the Church's blessing upon the union; and to preside at the wedding Eucharist, if there is one.

Christ Church + Washington Parish is a parish church of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. All weddings in this parish are performed in conformity with the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Episcopal Church; in obedience to its Canon Law and the laws of the District of Columbia; and conform to the directions of the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector of Christ Church.

