Regulations for Weddings

The Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
16 Church Hill, P.O. Box 23112, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J9
Phone: 709-726-5677
E-mail: Office@ourcathedral.ca

Application and Preparation

1. The clergy are to be consulted, and application submitted, well in advance of a proposed marriage. As our Canon (Church Law) on Marriage states, "It shall be the duty of those intending to marry to give due notice to the Minister at least sixty days before the proposed wedding" (Canon XXI, *On Marriage in the Church:* The Anglican Church of Canada.)

2. Couples being married in the Cathedral are expected to complete a Marriage Preparation Course, or equivalent preparation. Couples who do not live in the local area should consult with the Rector to discuss options for completing a Marriage Preparation Course.

3. **A Marriage Licence is required by law** and the marriage can be solemnized only within a period of thirty days following the date of issue of the licence. This licence may be obtained from a local Issuer of Marriage Licences or from the Provincial Division of Vital Statistics, www.gov.nl.ca/gs. The licence should be brought to the Church office as soon as it is obtained, and in any event **at least four days before the date of the wedding**. If you live out of province, contact the Vital Statistics Division at least 2 months before your wedding to find out how to get your licence.

4. Banns are no longer required by law and will only be published on request.

5. Marriage is forbidden by law to any persons under the age of 16 years. Minors (under age 19) require the written consent of their parents to the marriage.

The Service

6. Marriages are not solemnized during the two weeks before Easter (including Holy Saturday). Marriages may not take place in the Cathedral on Wednesdays after 6:00 pm, except in July and August when the Choir is on holiday.

7. The Cathedral clergy reserve the right and privilege of officiating at all marriages in the Cathedral. Special consideration will be given to a close relative who is an Anglican priest, or to the Anglican Rector of one of those intending to marry. In all cases, however, one of the Cathedral clergy will participate in the ceremony. Other clergy may be invited to assist with the ceremony, but in all such instances, a formal invitation must come from the Rector. Assisting clergy from outside the Cathedral should be paid for their services, in which case a suggested fee of $175 should be paid by the wedding couple directly to the Priest/Minister.

8. The marriage services in *The Book of Alternative Services* and *The Book of Common Prayer, and other liturgies approved by the Diocesan Bishop,* are the only rites permitted in the Cathedral and the Diocese.

9. The Wedding (Unity) Candle, the Sand ceremony, the Maize ceremony, and other such ceremonies not included in the identified liturgies, are not used at the Cathedral.

10. Children are welcome to take part in the Wedding Ceremony, however, please be aware that younger children (especially those younger than seven years of age) may have trouble remaining quiet throughout the whole ceremony – that is perfectly fine and is to be expected.

You just need to be prepared. Please take this into consideration when choosing children to act as Flower Girls or Ring Bearers.

11. Normally, during the Summer months, the Great West Doors of the Cathedral can be opened for the departure. However, depending on the weather, it may be better to leave from the side porch.

12. A receiving line is permitted on the west steps or at the back of the Cathedral, only if no other wedding or other service is scheduled within an hour after the end of your wedding. It is expected such a receiving line will have ended at least 45 minutes before any such following service is scheduled to begin, to allow for the comfort of those attending it.

13. Under no conditions is confetti, rice, etc., to be used in the Cathedral or on the Cathedral grounds.

14. Couples are expected to be on time for their wedding ceremony. If you are unacceptably late, the ceremony may be postponed until an acceptable time. For example, if there is another wedding following, your wedding may be postponed, to allow that wedding to occur at the scheduled time. **Please do not be late.**

Music

15. Except with the consent of the Cathedral Organist, only she, or, in her absence, an assistant, will play at weddings in the Cathedral. **The choice of music, and of any accompanying musicians (including soloist), must have her approval before any decision is made.** Where consent has been given for someone other than the Cathedral Organist or an assistant to play, the normal fee is nonetheless to be paid to the Cathedral Organist or to the assistant, whoever of them would otherwise be playing.
The Cathedral Organist is available for consultation to discuss music for the wedding ceremony. If the organist is not consulted at least three weeks prior to the wedding, it will be assumed that the couple has no specific musical requests. The Organist does not attend the wedding rehearsal.

Because the Marriage Ceremony is a sacrament of the Church, appropriate music is that which is conducive to worship. Vocal pieces will most appropriately be selections from Scripture, the Prayer Book, or a standard Hymn Book used in worship. **Selections which have secular connotations are not permitted, nor popular songs** – with or without their lyrics. Lists of suggestions for music, including vocal solos, are available from the organist.

All music, regardless of the performer, is subject to the approval of the Cathedral Organist in consultation with the Rector. Please direct all inquiries regarding music, soloists or other accompanists to the Cathedral Organist by emailing: Music@ourcathedral.ca.

Fees

16. **Minimum Fees:**
Effective 2028: The Total fees for a Wedding at the Cathedral is $950. (Please note: if the organist is expected to accompany another musician, there is an additional $50 fee.)

Applicants who are identifiable contributors to the Cathedral, or who in the previous twelve months have contributed at least $500, are expected to pay **$450** in fees. As those being married are considered to be adults, parental contributions are not considered for this purpose. **Please contact the Cathedral Office to arrange to pay the Wedding Fees before the Rehearsal**. Payment can be accepted by e-transfer or credit/debit card. In special circumstances, certain fees may be waived at the discretion of the Rector.

Flowers and Decorations

17. If special flowers are wanted in the Sanctuary, the Rector must be consulted. Flowers may be placed near the Chancel steps only if permission is first obtained. Artificial flowers are not permitted, except as pew markers.

18. Decorations cannot be affixed by tacks, tape or any material that will mar the church property.

Photography

19. Regulations concerning the use of photography are set out below. Please make your official photographer and/or video camera operator aware of these regulations.

[a] **At the discretion of the Wedding couple**, photographs may be taken by the congregation when the wedding party is entering and leaving the Cathedral, and when the Marriage Register is being signed. Photographs may be taken by your official photographer without flash, during the time the actual service is in progress.

[b] While official photography is permitted, there will be no posing for photographs during the service, or stopping the service to allow for pictures. The exception will be the signing of the register, during which we may pause briefly for pictures.

[c] The photographer is expected to remain professional, quiet, and unobtrusive, during the service (an over-active photographer can take away from the experience for the couple and for the congregation).

[d] It is also acceptable, at the couple's discretion, to provide further restrictions on your photographer. For example: if you do not want photographs taken during the service, then simply instruct your photographer of your wishes.

[e] There will be no access for the photographer inside the Sanctuary rail.

[f] A video may be taken, but additional lighting is not permitted.

20. In all questions of interpretations of these regulations, the decision of the Rector shall be final.

A Checklist:

- ☐ Contact the Cathedral Organist regarding music at least 3 weeks before the wedding. Details under #15
- ☐ Arrange for your Marriage Licence and bring it to the Cathedral at least 4 days before the wedding. Details under #3.
- ☐ Arrange to pay the fees with the Cathedral Office before the Rehearsal. Details under #16.