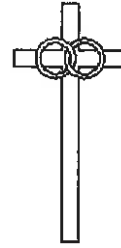


Trinity & Old Swedes Churches Wedding Guidelines



Marriage “was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee... Therefore, marriage is not to be entered unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God”

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 423

General Understandings:

- Christian marriage is a joyous event which is a sacrament as well as a civil contract and legally binding relationship. Thus, the marriage ceremony itself is a public act of worship and is conducted by a priest on the staff of Trinity Parish using the established rites of the Episcopal Church.
- To help couples begin a healthy marriage we require them to undergo a premarital evaluation with a member of the clergy. This includes regular attendance at Sunday worship.

Canonical Requirements (rules of the Episcopal Church):

- Please contact the parish clergy for an initial meeting to discuss expectations and the process
- In addition to the introductory meeting, the priest meets with the couple for a minimum of six sessions prior to the wedding for marriage preparation. A schedule for this instruction is usually arranged at the initial interview.
- At least one of the parties must be baptized.
- There must be at least two witnesses to the marriage.

- Persons who have been previously married and divorced must obtain permission from the Bishop, upon recommendation of the parish priest. If such a situation exists, the priest should be consulted at least three months in advance of the wedding date.
- If at any point during the time of preparation either party and/or the priest may discern not to continue with the process.

Policies and Customs:

- Clergy of Trinity Parish are normally the officiants. Should the couple desire another priest to participate, they should discuss this with the officiating priest first. The officiating priest will issue such invitations to other ministers. Clergy of other denominations are welcomed to assist and are invited by the officiating priest.
- All marriage services are performed according to *The Book of Common Prayer*. No additional rituals are inserted into the service.
- The Marriage license is to be brought to the rehearsal and presented to the priest at that time. The license and parish register are witnessed and the license is signed and mailed by the officiating priest following the ceremony.
- **Flowers:** Flowers placed in the church are symbolic of the joy of the occasion and represent a thank offering to God. The arrangement of flowers is under the supervision of a Flower Guild member, who will be glad to advise about the quantity and kind of flowers which might be appropriate. The Church does not provide flowers, so the couple should make the necessary arrangements. All flowers must be delivered no later than 90 minutes before the wedding begins. Contact information for the Flower Guild will be provided through the Parish Office, 652.8605, Ext. 11, or office@trinityparishde.org.

- **Music:** Our Director of Music works with the couple to select music for the service. Soloists are likewise selected with the consultation of the Director of Music. Contact the Director of Music directly at 652.8605, Ext. 17, or terry@trinityparishde.org.
- **Photos:** Due to their distraction, no flash photographs are permitted during the ceremony. Photographs may be posed before or after the service, with a time not to exceed 45 minutes. Please ask the photographer to consult with the priest prior to the service. Video recordings are permitted with no additional lighting. The officiating priests will instruct the photographer about the location for filming permitted in the church.
- **Rice/Seed:** We ask that no rice, paper, confetti, petals, birdseed or anything else be thrown in the Church or on the Church property. These are not healthful for wildlife, they are a safety issue (slipping) for guests, and they harm our floors.
- **Rehearsal:** A rehearsal of the entire wedding party is usually held the day before the wedding at a convenient time, but to start no later than 5:30 pm. The rehearsal is conducted by the priest, assisted by the Director of Music and the Altar Guild representative. No wedding consultants or outside directors are permitted to participate in the rehearsal.
- **Programs:** We are delighted to assist couples with crafting a service bulletin for weddings. Printing is done by the couple. Any printed materials to be used during the wedding must be approved by the officiating priest at least two weeks in advance.
- **Parking:** Couples are to speak with the parish property manager/sexton to gain information and make arrangements for parking. Please contact John Haddock, 652-8605, Ext. 18, or john@trinityparishde.org.
- **Lent:** During the season of Lent weddings are only permissible on Sundays.

Fees

The sexton's fee secures the date of the wedding on our calendar. Please make check payable to Trinity Parish with a memo "wedding + the last names of the bride and groom." Mail check to: Trinity Parish, Attn: Business Office, 1108 N. Adams Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. All music fees are to be paid in full at the rehearsal. Please make these checks payable to the organist and mark the memo line "wedding music."

Fees

A. Parishioners (registered members of Trinity and their immediate families.)

Organist	\$250
Organist w/ soloist	\$300 (includes rehearsal & accompaniment)
Soloist	Fee to be determined
Sexton	\$120
Reception Sexton	\$120

No fees are required for clergy. Gifts to the "*Clergy Discretionary Fund*" are welcome and are to be submitted to the business office.

B. Non-Parishioners

Organist alone	\$300
Organist w/ soloist	\$400 (includes rehearsal & accompaniment)
Soloist	Fee to be determined
Sexton	\$150
Reception Sexton	\$150
Building Use	\$500

No fees are required for clergy. Gifts to the "*Clergy Discretionary Fund*" are welcome and are to be submitted to the business office.

Where situations of genuine need exist, please consult with the Rector.

Trinity Parish Office
1108 North Adams Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Phone: 302.652.8605
Fax: 302.652.8611
Email (general): office@trinityparishde.org