

CHRIST CHURCH
1355 Northern Boulevard
Manhasset, NY (516) 627-2184

About Marriage and Weddings

The following are guidelines for marriages at Christ Church. It is our hope that this information will provide answers to many of the routine questions.

Wedding Arrangements at Christ Church

1. *Who may be married in Christ Church*

- a. Persons being married in Christ Church must meet the requirements of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the State of New York.
- b. While it is required that at least one of the parties is baptized, it would normally be expected that both parties be baptized and practicing Christians, or seeking to become so.
- c. Parties to the marriage must sign the Declaration of Intention.
- d. Marriages involving previously married parties whose prior marriage ended in divorce may be solemnized only under certain circumstances. Each case will be considered pastorally on its own merits. One party to the marriage must be a practicing Episcopalian at the time of the marriage, or be in the process of becoming so. The permission of the diocesan Bishop is necessary for all such marriages and can only be obtained on the recommendation of the clergy.

2. *Who may perform a marriage in Christ Church*

- a. All marriages will normally be carried out by the clergy of Christ Church.
- b. In the case of marriages where one of the parties is not Episcopalian, a clergyman of that party's faith may be invited to participate together with the officiating priest. The permission of the officiating priest in such cases is required.

3. *When to contact Christ Church*

- a. As soon as possible! Our schedule is a very busy one, and as much notice as possible would be appreciated.
- b. Canon Law requires a minimum of 30 days notice before a marriage may be performed.

4. *Counseling*

- a. Premarital counseling is required by Canon Law, and also desirable for the parties to the marriage. The Church is very concerned to give couples as much help as is practically possible in laying a strong foundation for a fulfilling Christian relationship.
- b. Normally such counseling will be conducted by the officiating priest.

5. *The Ceremony*

- a. The ceremony will be from The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church.
- b. The couple may choose to include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist in addition to the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage.

6. Flowers and Decoration

- a. Flowers are not required.
- b. Arrangements for flowers should be made by the wedding party and are restricted to moderation and good taste and their placement is at the discretion of the clergy.

7. Photographs

No pictures are to be taken by wedding guests during the procession, service or recession. A professional photographer is to consult with the officiating clergyman before the service. If it is desired, pictures may be taken in the church **immediately** after the wedding. The officiating priest will be happy to oblige at that time.

8. Marriage License

Securing the license is the responsibility of the couple. The license should be brought to the officiating clergyman **prior to the day of the wedding** and no later than the wedding rehearsal.

9. Confetti

We kindly request that your wedding party or guests **do not** use any kind of confetti, rice, birdseeds etc. thrown outside the church.

10. Music

- a. All music arrangements will be made with the clergy or organist.
- b. Soloists from the Christ Church Choir may be engaged - Fees vary from \$100 up.
- c. The Organist's fee is \$250. (\$50. additional for rehearsal with a soloist.)

11. Honoraria - Fees

- a. The Christ Church Organist (see Music)
- c. The Church Sexton - \$100.
- d. A contribution to Christ Church is suggested for use of the church.
- e. All fees are payable to the officiating clergyman **before the day of the wedding** and no later than the wedding rehearsal.

We trust that your plans for the future will bring you great joy and fulfillment in the relationship that you have found with each other, and that God will richly bless you in fostering and strengthening it in the years that lie ahead. Please be assured of our good wishes and prayers for your marriage, and that the Church and its ministry will always be ready to assist you whatever your need may be.