

Celebration and Blessing of Marriage
at *Trinity Cathedral Pittsburgh*

Trinity Cathedral Pittsburgh

The Celebration of Marriage at Trinity Cathedral Pittsburgh

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! The next few weeks and months will be filled with planning and preparation. We are pleased you have chosen Trinity Cathedral to be a part of this special season.

By coming to Trinity Cathedral to be married, an engaged couple is requesting that the Church both witness and bless their marriage. A wedding is one day; Christian marriage is for a lifetime.

We are looking forward to working with you to make your wedding celebration both beautiful and meaningful.

Blessings,

Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan
Parish Administrator/Wedding Coordinator
Weddings.trinitycathedral@gmail.com
412-232-6404

First...

All weddings are scheduled by the Cathedral office on a first come, first served basis. Please call as soon as you are sure of the date you would like to reserve for your wedding. We cannot guarantee any dates, but will do our best to accommodate requests. Therefore, we suggest calling the Cathedral office before booking reception venues, printing invitations, or publicly posting the date.

Weddings are normally held on Saturdays but arrangements may be made for other days of the week including Sundays. Weddings will be scheduled so that they do not conflict with the worship life of the parish. Weddings will not be scheduled during, nor may they take place during, Holy Week (Palm Sunday-Easter Sunday) or December 24, 25, and 26.

We are happy to schedule a tour of the Cathedral by appointment. Please contact Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan to arrange a visit.

Requirements for Marriage

Those who seek to be married in the Episcopal Church affirm that they intend a life-long commitment to one another. Their vows are made in the presence of God and within the Christian community. Therefore, it is required that one of the parties be a baptized Christian, that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses, and the marriage conform to the laws of the State.

Preparations for Marriage

You will be responsible for securing a Pennsylvania state marriage license. There is a three-day waiting period between applying for and receiving the license. The marriage license is valid for sixty days. The officiating priest must be in possession of the marriage license 24 hours in advance of the wedding (or at the wedding rehearsal.)

Pre-marital counseling is a helpful process for all couples in preparing for the wedding and marriage. Trinity Cathedral asks all the couples who get married here to go through some type of pre-marital counseling be it a class or meetings with the officiating priest or pastor. If a visiting clergy person is officiating the marriage, we ask a letter be sent affirming the completion of this counseling.

You will be asked to meet with the Trinity Cathedral Wedding Coordinator to discuss plans for your wedding, and to meet with Organist and Choirmaster, if music will be a part of your ceremony.

The Officiant at the Wedding

We relish the ministry of hospitality and are happy to officiate weddings at the Cathedral. We also welcome other members of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, Episcopal clergy, and guest clergy from other Christian traditions to officiate weddings at Trinity Cathedral.

The Ceremony

The Book of Common Prayer for the Episcopal Church contains a service for the Celebration and Blessing of Marriage. This is an excellent service, which we would recommend, but do not require. It can be personalized in many areas including music, readings, and particular customs. The wedding may include Holy Communion, but is not required. Family and friends may be invited to read Scripture lessons or prayers.

The Wedding Coordinator

Trinity Cathedral has an official wedding coordinator. She will be available to assist you in planning and preparing for your wedding celebration and in the coordination of the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. No outside wedding coordinator is needed or permitted at Trinity Cathedral.

Music

Trinity Cathedral holds to a standard of music that upholds the dignity and integrity of our Anglican heritage. Our organist, David Schaap, is available to play for weddings, using Trinity's well-known pipe organ. All wedding music, including any soloists or instrumentalists you may desire, must be pre-arranged with David who works in conjunction with the Cathedral clergy and wedding coordinator. He may be reached by calling [412-232-6404 ext. 124](tel:412-232-6404) or at music@trinitycathedralpgh.org . Keep in mind that music of a secular nature is not appropriate for a worship service and is, therefore not permitted. However, there is a wide range of sacred music entirely suitable for weddings, and the Organist will assist you in making appropriate choices

In most weddings, the music includes a fifteen-minute prelude of organ music, a processional and a recessional. Music at other points of the service may be arranged. For those who may desire a soloist, they are available from the Cathedral choir.

Flowers and Additional Decorations

The beauty of the Cathedral lies in no small measure in its own presence and history: from the original white mahogany pews to stained glass windows to gold accents. Lavish decorations are not needed and therefore, we request that flowers be limited to the two pedestals on either side of the altar. A ribbon or small nosegay may be hung on the pews, but no tacks or metal fasteners are permitted. No flowers are permitted on the altar or elsewhere in the Cathedral. Flowers may be placed in our outside clay pots.

Please consult with the Trinity Cathedral coordinator before making any arrangements with the florist; this will ensure that the flower arrangements will be appropriate for the Cathedral. We are happy to recommend a florist upon request.

Trinity Cathedral will also provide altar candles and large candles on either side of the altar. Upon request we will also provide aisle candles.

It is the wedding party's responsibility to remove the flowers within one hour after the wedding the ceremony.

Photography

Photography and wedding videos can help capture meaningful moments of your wedding day for years to come. The Cathedral works with your photographers and videographers to assist them in capturing beautiful photographs and videos without being disruptive to your ceremony. The officiant, Trinity Cathedral wedding coordinator, or sexton will show photographers and videographers the best places to set up cameras and most appropriate places for pictures.

The Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal is essential as it allows the participants to prepare for their roles in the wedding celebration. It allows everyone to feel more comfortable, ask questions, and ensures that the ceremony itself will run more smoothly. The rehearsal normally takes place the evening before the wedding although there may be an occasion where it will need to be held at a different time. The rehearsal should be scheduled well in advanced with the Cathedral office and wedding coordinator.

The Day of the Wedding

The wedding party may arrive up three hours before the wedding and no later than thirty minutes prior to the ceremony for the purpose of last minutes preparations, pre-wedding photographs, etc. Members of the wedding party may get ready at the church, but please allow plenty of time for preparations and be prepared to bring what you might need to the church. We ask the wedding party and guests to complete all post-wedding photographs, greetings, etc. no later than 45 minutes after than conclusion of the ceremony. All flowers and decorations not being donated to the church must be removed within one hour after the conclusion of the ceremony and are the responsibility of the wedding party.

Fees for the Wedding

The fee for members of Trinity Cathedral or clergy of The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is \$700. This fee includes the cost of the sexton, the use of the Cathedral for the rehearsal, wedding, bridal dressing room, groom dressing room, and other incidental costs.

The fee for all others is \$1,100.

There are additional fees:

Organist: \$250

This includes assistance in planning the music for the wedding ceremony, 15 minutes of prelude music, processional, recessional and any additional ceremonial music.

Wedding Coordinator: \$100

This includes one to two meetings prior to the rehearsal and wedding to assist in planning and preparing for the ceremony. These meetings may take place at the Cathedral or by phone. The coordinator will also direct the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony itself.

Clergy: \$250

This includes two to three pre-marital counseling sessions, the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. This fee is only applicable if engaging one of the Cathedral clergy.

A \$250 non-refundable deposit is due upon signing the contract. This deposit goes towards the total rental fee. A \$250 security deposit is also required, but will be returned in two weeks after your wedding if no damage to the Cathedral has occurred.

Payment is required two weeks before the ceremony.

After the Wedding

The Christian community promises to support you in your marriage. Trinity Cathedral's doors are always open to you. We hope that your relationship with Trinity Cathedral will continue to grow. Please remember that clergy are available for counseling after the ceremony as well, to help you live out the vows you make on your wedding day.

Trinity Cathedral Pittsburgh
325 Oliver Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-232-6404
www.trinitycathedralpgh.org

Noon Day Eucharist, Monday-Friday 12:05-12:30 P.M.
Evening Compline, Monday-Thursday 5:15-5:30 P.M.
Celebration of Holy Communion, Sunday 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.

Cathedral Offices Open Monday-Friday 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.