

# ➤➤➤➤➤ The Sacrament of Marriage at Trinity <<<<<<

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Christian marriage is a sacred commitment made and celebrated in the presence of God and before priest and congregation. The Church understands its role as one that blesses a couple's vows for their lifelong relationship and communion with God.

## GUIDELINES FOR TRINITY CHURCH

Trinity requires at least six months' advance notice prior to a wedding. If either party has been married before and divorced and the former spouse is still living, eight months between the initial inquiry and the date of the wedding is required. Trinity clergy officiate weddings held at Trinity Church.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

According to The Book of Common Prayer, for marriage in the Episcopal Church: "It is required that one, at least, of the parties be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and canons of this Church."

The Episcopal Church requires premarital preparation. The intent of this preparation is threefold:

1. To deepen the relationship between the couple and the Church
2. To examine the various aspects of the couple's own relationship
3. To assist the couple in preparing for a lifelong Christian marriage

Trinity's premarital process offers a sacred space for the couple to prepare for the sacrament of marriage.

## CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

In order to obtain a marriage license, both of the parties must appear together at any office of a city clerk in the State of New York. In Manhattan, the Marriage License Bureau is in the Office of the City Clerk, 141 Worth Street, near City Hall. The website for applications and appointments is: [cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-license](http://cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-license).

The couple is required to bring the marriage license to the wedding rehearsal before the ceremony.

## THE WEDDING CEREMONY

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a sacrament of the church and is found in The Book of Common Prayer. There are some options for readings that the couple may select. Trinity welcomes interfaith marriages, and scriptures and readings from other faiths may be incorporated into the liturgy with the cooperation and approval of the officiating priest. Personal written vows may not be used in lieu of the vows of the liturgy.

Clergy from other Episcopal churches, denominations or faiths may be invited to assist with a wedding ceremony with the approval and at the discretion of the Vicar. Trinity clergy are required to officiate the exchange of vows and the Marriage Blessing.

## THE BLESSING OF A CIVIL MARRIAGE

For those who have married in the presence of a civil authority, The Book of Common Prayer provides for a blessing in the church, including the exchange of vows and the giving and receiving of rings. Those who desire such a ceremony may make arrangements with the Associate Director, Pastoral Care & Community.

## SCHEDULING A WEDDING AT TRINITY CHURCH

Dates and times for the ceremony and rehearsal are scheduled in consultation with the Associate Director for Pastoral Care & Community. Weddings may be held in Trinity Church, the Chapel of All Saints, or St. Paul's Chapel. Ceremonies are scheduled Monday through Friday when the church is open and around the daily service schedule. Saturday weddings may be scheduled between 10am–3pm. Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays.

Weddings are not performed during the season of Lent (the 40 days prior to Easter), Advent (4 weeks before Christmas) or Christmastide (12 days of Christmas). Wedding dates are not official until a signed contract and the down payment of half the Flat Fee and Security Deposit are received and email confirmation is given to the couple by the Associate Director.

We advise that no public or printed announcement of a wedding at Trinity Church be made until the couple has received the official confirmation email from the Associate Director.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

A personalized printed order of service (bulletin) will be provided by Trinity Church in consultation with the officiating priest.

# The Sacrament of Marriage at Trinity

## MUSIC

Music for a wedding reflects and enriches the sacred nature of the ceremony. Couples may select music from our recommended list of **Music for the Rite of Matrimony**. Music selections that are not included on the recommended list must be approved by Trinity's music department. Music outside of the sacred repertoire (popular songs, show tunes, etc.) is not appropriate for the liturgy and is best used at your reception.

One of our parish organists will be assigned to your wedding date. You may also expand your music with the addition of a Trinity Choir soloist or instrumentalist. The cost of hiring additional musicians is detailed below.

If you wish to have a friend or family member participate as a guest musician in your wedding, a request must be emailed to the Associate Director no less than 2 months before the wedding. Participation of any guest musician is subject to approval by Trinity's music department, and professional materials such as biography and/or a demo recording may be requested.

Trinity's music staff is available to consult with couples regarding music for their wedding, and should be requested at least 2 months prior to the wedding date. All requests or questions about your wedding music may be directed to the Associate Director.

## FLOWERS

In Trinity, flowers for Sunday services are installed on Friday mornings and will be in place for all weddings; they may not be altered or removed. Trinity's florist is informed of all weddings and will use neutral colors so not to clash with wedding colors. If a couple would like the Trinity florist to take their wedding colors into consideration for the Sunday arrangements, that information may be given to the Associate Director at least 3 weeks before the wedding.

If additional floral arrangements are desired, arrangements may be made directly with Trinity's florist whose contact information is available from the Associate Director.

If an outside florist is engaged for additional flowers in the church, the couple must notify the Associate Director at least 2 months prior to the wedding. Guidelines for outside florists will be provided and floral designs require approval from Trinity staff before being finalized. These must be submitted to the Associate Director for approval at least 2 months prior to the wedding.

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographs provide beautiful and precious memories of this sacred event. To ensure the reverence of the ceremony, couples and their photographer are required to sign a photography agreement which provides guidelines to ensure that photography, whether by guests or professionals, does not disrupt or distract from the Sacrament for either the couple or the guests. These guidelines include that no flash may be used during the ceremony and guests must remain in their seats during the ceremony.

Posed pictures may be taken either before or after the ceremony and will be scheduled with the Associate Director.

Contact information for Trinity's photographer is available on request.

## VIDEOGRAPHY

Trinity does not allow outside videographers, including family and friends, to videotape the ceremony. Professional staff is able to livestream and record the wedding for an additional fee. A private link for the webcast is provided prior to the wedding and a downloadable link is delivered after the ceremony.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

For safety reasons, no aisle runner is to be used at any time. "Unity Candles" are not a part of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. The use of rice, confetti, or rose petals is not permitted in the church or on the pavement outside. No outside food or drink, other than water, is permitted in the church.

## PARKING

Parking on the streets near the church is extremely limited. The Battery Parking Garage at 70 Greenwich St. is convenient to Trinity Church. Barclay St. Garage at 18 Vesey St. is convenient to St. Paul's Chapel.

## WEDDING FEES

- ❖ Trinity Church Flat Fee | \$1,500
- ❖ Security Deposit | \$500
- ❖ Total: \$2,000

- In order to reserve the date, the Security Deposit and half of the flat fee must be paid when signing the Wedding Services Contract.
- The Security Deposit is refundable but may be forfeited under certain conditions as defined in the Wedding Contract.
- Your final payment is due one month prior to your wedding.

### The following services are optional:

- ❖ Trinity Choir Vocalist | \$250 each
- ❖ Instrumentalist (i.e., trumpet, violin) | \$250 each
- ❖ Webcast | \$1,350
- ❖ Trinity Choir | Consult with Organist

**The Rev. Kristin Kaulbach Miles,**  
Director & Priest for Pastoral Care & Community

### For more information, please contact:

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