

# **Notes on Getting Married at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill**

This material will help you if you are considering, or preparing for, getting married at St. Mary's, Richmond Hill. If you haven't already done so, please contact the church office, 905-884-2227 or [office@saintmaryschurch.ca](mailto:office@saintmaryschurch.ca). They will be able to let you know whether your preferred date is available and arrange a meeting with our clergy.

This clergy meeting should take place as soon as possible and at least sixty (60) days before the proposed wedding date. At this meeting the clergy will discuss the meaning of marriage, the details of the service, and *confirm the final booking* of the wedding. If you have a copy of our Wedding Form, please complete it and bring it to your first meeting with our clergy.

## ***Christian Marriage***

Christian Marriage is a holy and public covenant between a man and a woman, in the presence of God. In the Anglican Church, it is required that one, at least, of the parties be baptised Christian. It is hoped that couples intending marriage at St. Mary's are willing to practice their faith by worship.

## ***Preparation for Marriage***

The church requires that each couple prepare for marriage. Courses are available to help couples in this preparation. We recommend the program offered by the Rev. Brian Murray of *Humancare*. He can be reached at 905-841-3173 or see the web site at <http://www.marriageprep.com/>.

## ***Marriage Licences***

A marriage licence must be obtained. These are issued at any municipal office. Please note the licence is valid for three months from the date of issue but there is a waiting period of three full days between the date of issue and the date of the wedding. Please bring your marriage licence to the clergy at the final preparation meeting before the wedding.

## ***Remarriage of Divorced Persons***

Under certain circumstances, divorced persons may be married in the Anglican Church. It is wise to consult with a member of the clergy, as early as possible, if such a wedding is contemplated. At least ninety (90) days notice is required.

## ***Change of Name***

A person informally adopting the surname of the spouse has no difficulty in obtaining a driver's licence or a passport or other forms of identification, although usually a copy of the marriage certificate is required.

## **The Order of Service**

### **Eucharist**

We encourage practicing, baptised Christians to seriously consider having the Eucharist as part of their Marriage Celebration.

### **Music**

Music is to be in keeping with Christian worship. If you wish, it is appropriate to sing a hymn during the ceremony. *Common Praise*, the hymn book of the Anglican Church of Canada, offers three that are especially suited to weddings: nos. 287, 288 and 289. Our organist, Mr. Murray Baer, 905-737-5702, is available for consultation regarding your wedding music most Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. service.

### **Scripture Readings**

One or two bible texts from the Old Testament and Epistles may be read during the service, if you would like, by a family member or friend. Couples are encouraged to choose from the following list of appropriate readings:

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| Genesis 1: 27-28, 31a | <i>God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them ...</i>                 |
| Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13  | <i>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good ...</i>   |
| 1 Corinthians 13      | <i>So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love ...</i>  |
| Ephesians 3: 14-19    | <i>To comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ ...</i> |
| Colossians 3: 12-17   | <i>Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony ...</i>   |
| 1 John 4: 7-12        | <i>If we love one another, God abides in us ...</i>  |

### **Gospel Readings**

Please choose one of the following appropriate bible texts from the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which are traditionally read by the clergy:

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| Matthew 5: 1-10   | <i>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied ...</i> |
| Matthew 22: 35-40 | <i>You shall love the Lord your God ... You shall love your neighbour as yourself ...</i>        |
| Mark 10: 6-9      | <i>The two shall become one flesh ...</i>  |
| John 2: 1-11      | <i>On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee ...</i>                              |
| John 15: 9-12     | <i>This is my commandment, that you love one another ...</i>                                     |

## ***Flowers and Accessories***

Please contact Joan Connolly, the Wedding Co-ordinator, 905-883-3901, to arrange for flowers, bows and other accessories.

## ***Videos and Photography***

Videos are permitted as long as it is unobtrusive and does not interrupt the solemnity of the service. Pictures may be taken as the wedding party enters the church, however, there are to be no flash pictures throughout the service. Pictures may be taken during the signing of the register. It is helpful you discuss this when making arrangements with your photographer and that he or she meet with the presiding priest 15 minutes before the service to discuss this policy.

## ***Fees***

Please bring the various fees to the wedding rehearsal in separate envelopes. Cash is the preferred form of payment.

## **Organist**

The fee for the organist is \$150.00.

## **Church**

Couples who do not support Saint Mary's through regular givings are asked for a donation of \$250.00. An income tax receipt will be issued for this donation.

## **Clergy**

The honorarium for the clergy is \$250.00.

## **Wedding Co-ordinator**

\$125.00

## **Pillar Candles**

\$25.00

## **Candelabra**

\$25.00