



# Weddings at Calvary Church



**CALVARY**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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*The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity*

— *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 422

The wedding service in the Episcopal Church is called the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. The wedding is the occasion when the Christian community gathers to celebrate your commitment to one another and to ask God's blessing on your life together. We are pleased that you wish to celebrate your marriage at Calvary Church. This booklet has been prepared to provide you with information concerning preparation for marriage and planning for the wedding ceremony. Since each marriage and each wedding is unique, you will have specific questions and concerns. You are encouraged to speak with the clergy and the wedding coordinator about your particular questions.

## ***First***

Please notify Calvary Church as soon as you know that you wish to get married here. **Please do not publish a date or make any arrangements for a reception, etc. until the date and time are cleared with the parish office and one of the clergy has agreed to officiate.** It is never too early to contact the church.

Weddings normally take place on Saturdays, but may be arranged for other days of the week. Weddings will be scheduled so that they do not conflict with the worship or program life of the parish. Weddings may not take place during the season of Lent.

## **Requirements for Marriage**

*Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God.*

— *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 422

Those who seek to be married in the Episcopal Church affirm that they intend a life-long commitment to one another. The bride and groom are asked to sign a Declaration of Intention to enter into Christian marriage. Their vows are made in the presence of God and within the Christian community. Therefore, it is required that one, at least, of the parties must 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 the canons of this Church. (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 422)

If either person has been divorced, the couple must meet with the clergy to decide if re-marriage is advisable. If the decision is made to proceed with the marriage, the clergy must seek permission from the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. The priest submits forms, including information from the couple. *The procedure for seeking permission for re-marriage takes 60 days, and the wedding should not be announced until the permission has been received.*

In discussing marriage with any couple, whether re-marriage is involved or not, the priest may advise the couple against marriage and may decline to officiate at the wedding.

The couple will be responsible for securing a Pennsylvania marriage license. There is a wait of three to five days between applying for the license and receiving it. A marriage license is valid for sixty days. It is necessary for the officiating priest to be in possession of the license at least 48 hours before the ceremony.



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### ***Preparation for Marriage***

The couple will meet for pre-marital counseling with the priest who will officiate at the wedding. This counseling allows the couple to consider and discuss both practical and spiritual aspects of marriage and to build a foundation for the promises they will make. Planning the wedding ceremony is also included. Ordinarily, a minimum of three sessions is required. In the case of re-marriage after divorce, five sessions are required. In exceptional circumstances, such as when the bride and groom live elsewhere, arrangements may be made for another priest to provide the pre-marital counseling.

In addition to pre-marital counseling, you will be asked to meet with the wedding coordinator of Calvary Church to discuss plans for your wedding and to meet with the Director of Music, if music will be a part of your wedding ceremony.

### ***The Officiant at the Wedding***

The clergy of Calvary Church consider it a privilege to officiate at weddings held in this parish. The Rector determines which of the Calvary clergy will officiate, taking into account such factors as a particular pastoral relationship between the couple and one of the clergy staff. Other clergy, such as the parish priest of the bride or groom, or a relative or friend who is ordained (in the Episcopal Church or in another denomination) may be invited by the Rector to assist in the wedding service.

### ***The Ceremony***

*The Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church contains the service for The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage (pages 423 – 432). Wedding ceremonies at Calvary Church follow this service. You should read through the service carefully as you begin to think about your wedding. Many parts of the ceremony, including the vows, are specified by the Prayer Book. Other aspects are variable, including Scripture lessons and customs such as giving away the bride. The wedding may or may not include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Family and friends may be invited to read Scripture lessons or prayers. The officiant will guide you in making appropriate choices for your wedding service.

## ***Music***

Both instrumental music and hymns can be a significant and beautiful part of the wedding service. The Director of Music will guide you in the selection of music. You may discuss any requests you may have. The Director of Music also is able make recommendations and must approve all music for weddings at Calvary. Other instrumentalists and vocalists may participate, if you wish. The participation of other musicians, including any organist other than the Director of Music or the Assistant Organist of Calvary, must be coordinated with the Director of Music.

## ***Order of Service or Program***

An order of service allows those attending the wedding to follow and participate in the ceremony. Producing the order of service is the responsibility of the bride and groom. Before the final printing of the program, the officiant or the Director of Music must review it. Finished copies of the order of service should be brought to the church at the time of the rehearsal.

## ***Flowers***

Choosing flowers for your wedding will enhance the celebration and complement the beauty of the church itself. The Calvary Church wedding coordinator has extensive experience and understands the best use of flowers in our space. Before making any arrangements with a florist, you must consult the wedding coordinator. This will ensure that the floral arrangements will be appropriate for use in this building.

The following basic rules always apply. You should share this information with your florist.

1. A pair of arrangements may be placed on the retable behind the high altar, using modest flower vases. When the wedding takes place in front of the rood screen, a pair of modest low vases of flowers may be placed on the rood screen.
2. If aisle candles are used, modest decorations may be attached to the wrought-iron candle stands. The florist is responsible for removing the decorations from the candle stands after the ceremony.
3. No flowers, ferns, greens, or any other decoration will be placed in or on any other part of the church. This includes the crossing platform, the high altar, and the crossing altar. Flower pedestals are not permitted.



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### ***Photography***

Photographs and videos provide meaningful keepsakes of your wedding day. However, the wedding experience can be irreparably diminished by photographers or videographers who are obtrusive and intrusive. To avoid this problem, Calvary Church has strict rules about wedding photography and videography. You should inform your photographer or videographer of the following rules.

1. During weddings at Calvary, from the beginning of the bridal march until the end of the recessional; no photographs are permitted, except those taken from the west balcony using available light. Wedding guests are also expected to follow this rule.
2. Before or after the service, photographs of the bridal party may be taken in the church, either on the crossing platform or in the chancel, but not within the communion rails.
3. Video cameras are allowed, only if placed unobtrusively at a stationary location in the church prior to the ceremony, and set to tape the ceremony.

### ***The Rehearsal***

A wedding rehearsal is essential. Participants in the ceremony need preparation for the various roles they must carry out. A rehearsal helps make the participants more comfortable, and ensures that the ceremony will proceed smoothly and with dignity. The rehearsal normally takes place the evening before the wedding, although on occasion it may need to be held at another time. The rehearsal time should be scheduled with the wedding coordinator.

The bridal party may arrive up to one hour prior to the ceremony for the purpose of last-minute preparations, pre-wedding photographs, etc. The Evans Room will be made available for the bride, her attendants, and her immediate family. The women of the bridal party may dress at the church. The bridal party and guests must complete all post-wedding photographs, greetings, etc., no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the ceremony.

## ***Fees for the Wedding***

The fee for communicants in good standing of Calvary Church, regular worshippers who are also on record as contributors to the church, is \$1,000. This fee covers the cost for the wedding coordinator, the organist, the sexton, and the sound technician, as well as other incidental expenses.

The fee for all other persons is \$2,000. In addition to the expenses listed above, this includes a fee for the use of the church and an honorarium which is deposited in the discretionary fund of the officiating priest.

Adjustments to the fees may be made if the wedding takes place in one of the chapels and/or if the services of an organist are not required.

There are additional costs for optional services, if desired.

*These fees apply to all weddings at Calvary Church.*

Vocalist	\$125
Trumpeter	\$150
Timpanist	\$125
Aisle Candles	\$250

Payment in full is due two weeks before the ceremony.

Checks should be made payable to Calvary Episcopal Church.

## ***After the Wedding***

*Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage? We will.*

— *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 425

The Christian community promises to support you in your marriage. We hope that your relationship to Calvary Church will continue and that you will find spiritual growth and sustenance within this parish family. Please remember that clergy are available for “post-marital” counseling as well, to help you live out the vows that you make on your wedding day.



# CALVARY

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*A faithful Episcopal Church welcoming all in the name of Christ*

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The Reverend Canon Harold T. Lewis, Ph.D., D.D., RECTOR

The Rev. Leslie G. Reimer, ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Rev. Nathan A. Rugh, CURATE

Dr. Alan Lewis, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Louise Wells, WEDDING COORDINATOR