



St. George's Church

WEDDINGS

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two adults made in the presence of God. In the Anglican Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested to by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the Province and the canons of this Church. If either of you has not been baptized, this can be arranged prior to the wedding.

As you know, St. George's Church, with its magnificent architecture, organ, and carillon, is a beautiful setting for a wedding ceremony. Now that you are beginning to make plans for your wedding, we want the preparations to go as smoothly as possible for you. Many of your questions will be answered when you read the following guidelines, but you will have the opportunity to discuss all of the details of your ceremony with the Parish Administrator and the Priest who will officiate at your wedding.

At St. George's, we have both a magnificent church, which can seat up to 500 people, and a beautiful, small chapel which can easily accommodate 40 people. When there are more than 40 guests, it is suggested that the church itself be used.

Marriage is a gift of God and a means of his grace, in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love, they shall grow together and be united in that love, as Christ is united with his Church.

The union of man and woman in heart, body, and mind is intended for their mutual comfort and help, that they may know each other with delight and tenderness in acts of love [and that they may be blessed in the procreation, care, and upbringing of children].

In marriage, husband and wife give themselves to each other, to care for each other in good times and in bad. They are linked to each other's families, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should reverence, and none should lightly undertake. From "The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage" in the *Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada*: (p. 528)

The First Steps

All prospective couples need to speak with the Rector (or designate) in order to initiate the wedding preparation process. The parish priest, either the Rector or an Assistant Priest, cannot agree to perform any marriage ceremony until he/she has met both of you and is satisfied that you are eligible for marriage. Under normal circumstances at least 60 days notice must be given before the marriage takes place.

If St. George's is your church home, great! If not, it is important that we get to know each other. We invite you to come and experience our worship, fellowship and community events. Introduce yourselves to the clergy and people of the parish. As a couple, finding a church home is one way to build up your relationship and create support systems that will be life-giving to both of you.

The Parish Administrator will help you with the availability of potential dates and will make sure you get the required paperwork.

The Marriage of Divorced Persons

If either or both of you have been previously married plans for your wedding cannot be confirmed until the officiating priest has seen the Certificate(s) of Divorce.

Pre-marital and Pastoral Counseling

The canons (rules and regulations) of the Church require that each couple preparing for marriage in the Anglican Church must undergo pre-marital counseling. Clergy cannot marry couples who have not completed pre-marital counseling.

You will be required to attend three marriage preparation interviews with the Rector. The first takes place when the marriage is arranged. The second interview will take place about six weeks before the wedding. The third interview will take place about a week before the wedding.

In addition, you must attend a **Marriage Preparation Seminar or counseling** before marriage. You should plan to do this as soon as you have reserved the date for your wedding ceremony so that you can attend one before you get too caught up in taking care of all of the other details of your wedding.

The recommended course can be found at www.marriageprep.com; please send a copy of your certificate to the Parish Administrator when you have completed the course. It can be completed at a weekend seminar or as a webinar. The cost is about \$150, which is an inexpensive investment into a strong marriage.

If you should choose to work with a different pre-marital counselor (whether a priest or a therapist), you must provide their contact information to the clergy.

Wedding Policies and Guidelines

Scheduling

- Weddings are normally scheduled between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm on weekdays and Saturdays.
- Sunday weddings may be scheduled only with permission from the Rector of the Church.
- Weddings are not normally scheduled during the season of Advent (the four weeks preceding Christmas), Lent (the forty days preceding Easter) or on major holidays.

The Officiating Priest and the Liturgy

- All weddings at St. George's Church will conform to the rules and practices of the Anglican Church of Canada. The vows exchanged will come from the authorized texts.
- It is normative that a priest of the St. George's Church staff officiates at the ceremony. Other diocesan clergy are welcome to officiate, with the permission of the Rector of St. George's. The participation of guest clergy will be determined by the officiating priest.
- If you are working with an outside wedding consultant, please inform that person that s/he will not play an active role in the ceremony or the rehearsal.
- The popular custom of lighting a Unity Candle is not part of the Anglican service.
- There are two liturgies to choose between; one includes eucharist and one does not. The order of service for these services are at the end of this package.
- Readings during the service are chosen from the list also attached at the end of this package.

The Wedding Program

- If you choose to have a wedding program (optional), please submit a copy of your program to the office for review and approval BEFORE printing copies for guests to ensure that the order of service adheres to the liturgy of the Anglican Church.

Music

- See the section below regarding music.

Carillon (optional – extra cost)

- St. George's has a 36-bell carillon that can be played after the wedding for about 15-20 minutes. If you should decide to have the carillon played, the officiating priest will make arrangements to have one of our carillonneurs present on the day of your wedding.

Marriage Licence

- A marriage licence must be obtained from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall not more than three months (90 days) before the wedding. One of you must be a resident of the Province of Ontario for a minimum of three weeks prior to obtaining it.
- **The licence, along with the fees, should be brought into the church office at least three weeks before the date of your wedding ceremony. Your wedding (or rehearsal) cannot take place if the licence and/or fees have not been received.**

The Rehearsal

- The rehearsal time must be scheduled with input from the officiating priest, and then through the Parish Administrator.
- Rehearsals are directed by the officiating priest and will last approximately 45 minutes.

- Photographs and videos of the rehearsal are discouraged. However, photographers and videographers are welcome to attend the rehearsal to receive instructions from the officiating priest.

Photography and Videotaping

- You may engage a professional photographer to take pictures during the processions and the signing of the register. Because Christian marriage is a solemn and sacred rite, photography during the ceremony is strongly discouraged, and use of flash is strictly forbidden.
- It is permissible to video tape the marriage ceremony, but the person doing the video taping must remain in the same place throughout the service, as directed by the officiating priest. This person should be in place fifteen minutes prior to the ceremony. If your videographer is a family friend, it is a good idea for him/her to come to the rehearsal so as to become familiar with the surroundings before the day of your ceremony. Please note that all scheduling of photography must be cleared with the officiating priest.
- Any postings of photos / videos to social media that include images of the Rector or live portions of the wedding ceremony require prior permission from the Rector.

Decorations

- Installations of artworks within the Church will not be removed for weddings.
- Bows are permitted on the pews.
- For safety and aesthetic reasons, aisle runners are not permitted.
- **Please notify guests that throwing confetti, rice, birdseed or rose petals, or blowing bubbles or releasing balloons is not permitted, either inside or outside the Church.**

Music

The church organist, Dr. Gerald Manning, is normally available to play at all weddings, or will arrange for a competent substitute if he is unable to be present. However, if you wish to have someone other than our church organist play at your wedding, you must receive permission from the Rector of St. George's. In a case such as this, the church organist still receives the regular fee. (This regulation complies with the Canadian College of Organists guidelines and is part of the organist's contract with St. George's Church.) The organist is not required to attend the wedding rehearsal.

If the wedding ceremony includes a soloist, the organist should be notified at least **6 weeks** prior to the wedding concerning the selection of music and the scheduling of a rehearsal. If you wish our organist to provide a soloist for your wedding, please contact him **as soon as possible** so that he can make the arrangements (extra fees will apply).

Choice of Music

We remind people being married in St. George's Church that a wedding is a religious ceremony; some music is not suitable, or may be inappropriate for the organ, although it may be fine for the reception. Playing recorded music over the P.A. system is also inappropriate for a wedding ceremony held in St. George's.

Listed below are appropriate and effective pieces. The opening phrase of each may be heard on a CD available from our church office. Unless indicated, these pieces may serve either as processional or recessional. Please contact Dr. Manning with your selections at least 3 weeks prior to the date of your wedding.

Music for Wedding Processionals and Recessionals

1.	Henry Purcell	Trumpet Tune in D
2.	Jeremiah Clarke	Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)
3.	David Johnson	Trumpet Tune
4.	G.F. Handel	Trumpet Processional
5.	J.J. Mouret	Rondeau ("Masterpiece Theatre")
6.	Hymn Tune	Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (Hymn 30) Processional Only
7.	Henry Purcell	Westminster Abbey (Hymn 145) Processional Only
8.	F.J. Haydn	St. Anthony Chorale Processional Only
9.	J.S. Bach	In Thee Is Gladness Recessional Only
10.	G.F. Handel	Hornpipe (from "Water Music") Recessional Only
11.	S.S. Wesley	Choral Song
12.	F. Mendelssohn	Wedding March from Midsummer Night's Dream Recessional Only
13.	J. Pachelbel	Canon in D
14.	J.S. Bach	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

NOTES:

- It is recommended to have only one piece for the Bridal Procession: as the bride enters, the organ will increase in volume.
- During the signing of the register, the organist will play a quiet piece of music. Two examples are included at the end of the recording in case you want to select a particular piece for him to play. "Canon in D" by Pachelbel could also be used for a quiet processional if desired.

Schedule of Fees for Weddings:

All Inclusive Fees		
Church	\$1275	Includes use of Church, Officiating Priest, Organist, Sexton (Custodian)
Chapel	\$1025	Includes use of Chapel, Officiating Priest, Organist, Sexton (Custodian)
Optional Additional Fees		
Carillonneur	\$75.00	plays bells in the church tower as wedding party leaves at conclusion of ceremony
Assisting Clergy		determined in consultation with assisting clergy
Soloist		as arranged with the church organist

A deposit of \$500 is due when the date is confirmed.

The remainder is due a minimum of 3 weeks before the wedding.

Cancellation: 75% of the deposit (\$375) will be refunded if the wedding is cancelled at least 3 months prior to the booked date.

Liturgy (with Eucharist)

The Celebration & Blessing of a Marriage

Processional Music

Song

Composer

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome

Opening Prayer

The Proclamation of the Word

Reading Scripture or other reading
Read by (name)

Gospel Scripture or other reading
Read by (name)

Homily

The Wedding

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of the Rings

The Signing of the Register

(Music during, and soloist if applicable)

Song

Composer

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

The Celebration of the Eucharist

(The Book of Alternative Services, p.535)

Preparation of the Gifts

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

The Blessing of the Marriage

Recessional Music

Song

Composer

Participants:

Celebrant The Rev. Canon Ralph T. Blackman

Priest Assistant* The Rev. Canon B. Jean Mitchell

Organist Dr. Gerald Manning

Sexton Ron Leonard

Carillonneur* Donald Hamilton

*optional

Suitable Readings:

At least one reading must be from the New Testament/Gospel selections.

Old Testament

Genesis 1.27–28,31a

Tobit 8.5b–8

Psalms and Suitable Refrains

Psalms 67 (May God be merciful to us and bless us)

Psalms 112.1–6
..... (Happy are they who fear the Lord or Hallelujah!)

Psalms 148.1–6 (Hallelujah!)

Psalms 150 (Hallelujah!)

New Testament Readings

Romans 12.1–2, 9–13

1 Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3.14–19

Colossians 3.12–17

1 John 4.7–12

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5.1–10

Matthew 22.35–40

Mark 10.6–9

John 2.1–11

John 15.9–12

Liturgy (without Eucharist)

The Celebration & Blessing of a Marriage

Prelude

Processional Music

Song

Composer

Gathering of the Community

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Proclamation of the Word

1st Reading Scripture or other reading
Read by (name)

2nd Reading Scripture or other reading
Read by (name)

Gospel Scripture or other reading
Read by (name)

Homily

The Wedding

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of the Rings

Signing of the Register

(Music during, and soloist if applicable)

Song

Composer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Blessing of the Marriage

Recessional Music

Song

Composer

Participants:

CelebrantThe Rev. Canon Ralph T. Blackman

Priest Assistant*The Rev. Canon B. Jean Mitchell

Organist Dr. Gerald Manning

SextonRon Leonard

Carillonneur* Donald Hamilton

*optional

Suitable Readings:

At least one reading must be from the New Testament/Gospel selections.

Old Testament

Genesis 1.27–28,31a

Tobit 8.5b–8

Psalms and Suitable Refrains

Psalms 67 (May God be merciful to us and bless us)

Psalms 112.1–6
..... (Happy are they who fear the Lord *or* Hallelujah!)

Psalms 148.1–6 (Hallelujah!)

Psalms 150 (Hallelujah!)

New Testament Readings

Romans 12.1–2, 9–13

1 Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3.14–19

Colossians 3.12–17

1 John 4.7–12

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5.1–10

Matthew 22.35–40

Mark 10.6–9

John 2.1–11

John 15.9–12

Wedding Checklist & Countdown

Your wedding date: _____

DONE	Your date	Time before wedding *	What
		Minimum 6 months	Contact Parish Administrator re availability of dates
		Minimum 6 months	Get wedding package from office or download from website (including music CD)
		Minimum 6 months	Book first meeting with Rector
		Minimum 5 months	First meeting with Rector
		Minimum 5 months	Submit completed form to Parish Administrator
		Minimum 5 months	Submit \$500 deposit to Parish Administrator
		5 months	Complete Marriage Prep Course
		5 months	Send a copy of Marriage Prep Certificate of Completion to Parish Administrator
		@ 12 weeks before	Book second meeting with Rector
		@ 12 weeks before	Get wedding license from City Hall (valid for 90 days)
		6 weeks	Second meeting with Rector
		6 weeks	Set time / date for wedding rehearsal
		6 weeks	Choose music for ceremony and let Music Director know your choices
		6 weeks	Choose readings for the ceremony and discuss with Rector
		6 weeks	Choose readers for ceremony
		6 weeks	If there will be a wedding program, submit final copy to office for review and approval BEFORE printing
		6 weeks	Book third meeting with Rector
		At least 3 weeks	Submit wedding license to church office (you can bring it to the church office on the day you get it if you want)
		3 weeks	Submit final payment for wedding to Parish Administrator
		3 weeks	Provide full names and addresses of your witnesses and any updated information, if not already on the original application form
		One week	Third meeting with Rector
		One week	Make arrangements for any deliveries of flowers & setup at church
		1 day before	Rehearsal at church
		Day zero – this is it!	Get married and live happily ever after

***NOTE: These are usual dates / timeline. The minimum notice required for a wedding is 60 days, and the process is sped up to match a shorter timeline.**

Contact Information:

St. George's Church
99 Woolwich Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3V1

Phone: 519-822-1366

www.saintgeorge.ca

Rector:	The Rev. Canon Ralph Blackman	<u>rector@saintgeorge.ca</u>
Priest Assistant:	The Rev. Canon Jean Mitchell	<u>priestassistant@saintgeorge.ca</u>
Organist:	Dr. Gerald Manning	<u>musicdirector@saintgeorge.ca</u>
Parish Administrator:	Jeanette Duncan	<u>office@saintgeorge.ca</u>