

The Episcopal Church's Canonical Requirements for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

The "Pastoral Offices" are the sacraments and other rites which the Church administers to persons at the important turning-points in their lives. The Pastoral Offices are regular liturgies of the holy Catholic Church and are celebrated within the total life of the Christian community. They are not "private" services which the Church does for individuals apart from any commitment to the Christian Faith and active, responsible Church membership.

All the Pastoral Offices, therefore, are subject to the same standards as are all the liturgies of the Church:

- The liturgical forms set forth in the Book of Common Prayer must be used.
- Any choral or instrumental music used must be appropriate and liturgical.
- Any ceremonial, flowers, candles, etc. used must be liturgical and in conformity with the recognized liturgical standards of the Church, focusing on the sacrament not the bridal party.

The Rector of the parish (under the Bishop of the diocese) is the final authority in all liturgical matters.

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (and the blessing of a previously celebrated marriage) may only be celebrated between a man and a woman who are free to marry according to both the laws of the State and the laws of the Church:

- both must be legally of age
- both must freely consent
- the couple may not be within bounds of consanguinity
- the couple must have a valid civil marriage license
- at least one must be a Baptised Christian
- both must have never previously been married; or must have been widowed; or must have received a Declaration of Sacramental Nullity of a previous marriage from the Bishop of the diocese

The priest must have at least 30 days official notification before the intended marriage. (Exceptions to this requirement can be granted only by the Bishop of the diocese.)

The priest – or another priest designated by him – must instruct the couple in the meaning of Holy Matrimony and must have ascertained that they understand that this Sacrament is "a

physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with the intent that it be lifelong.” The couple must sign a Declaration of Intention to administer the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony to each other.

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is celebrated in the church, normally in the context of a Nuptial Eucharist. This Mass may be Solemn or simple.

The Rector of the parish, or any individual priest, may refuse to officiate at any marriage at his discretion.

Parish Policy on Weddings Celebrated in St Paul's Church

Persons who presently are or have in the past been members of St Paul's parish community may be married in St Paul's Church.

At weddings canonically in the Parish at which the Rector officiates:

One party must be presently an active member of St Paul's parish community and must attend the Eucharist Sunday-by-Sunday.

The wedding must fulfill the requirements of both *The Episcopal Church's Canonical Requirements for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony* and the *Parish Policy on Weddings Celebrated Canonically in St Paul's Parish* (see attached).

At weddings canonically in the Parish at which another priest officiates:

The wedding must fulfill the requirements of both *The Episcopal Church's Canonical Requirements for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony* and the *Parish Policy on Weddings Celebrated Canonically in St Paul's Parish* (see attached).

At weddings in St Paul's Church but not canonically in the Parish:

The wedding must fulfill the requirements of the *Parish Policy on Weddings Celebrated in St Paul's Church But Not Canonically in the Parish* (see attached).

Parish Policy on Weddings Celebrated Canonically in St Paul's Parish

The wedding must fulfill the requirements of *The Episcopal Church's Canonical Requirements for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony*.

The wedding must be celebrated within the context of a Nuptial Eucharist, and all music and ceremonial must be consistent with established parish liturgical norms. ("Unity candles," runners, etc. are not permitted.)

The wedding may not be celebrated on a Sunday, a major Holy Day, in Advent, in Lent, or at any time that conflicts with scheduled parish events.

The officiating priest, if not the Rector, must be approved by the Rector.

If the officiating priest is not a priest of this parish, a designated representative of the parish must be present at both the rehearsal and the wedding. She/he is the Rector's official representative and thus the final authority in all matters.

No church furnishings may be moved, and the sacredness of the consecrated church-proper must be respected at all times. (Cellular telephones may never be used in the church, nor may food or drink be brought into the church-proper.)

Flowers and candles may only be used at the Altar. One of the parish's designated florists must be used to provide any altar flowers.

All music – instrumental and vocal - is under the jurisdiction of St Paul's Director of Music who is the final authority in all matters of music. It is always his prerogative to be the musician for the liturgy; if he does not play for the service his normal fee must nevertheless be paid (American Guild of Organists policy).

The *Parish Policy on Photography at the Liturgy* must be observed.

No rice, confetti, bird seed, or flower petals are permitted in the church buildings or on the church grounds.

Current charges for the Sexton, the Organist, and honorarium for a priest not of this parish are available from the Parish Office, and checks must be received before the wedding rehearsal. (There is no charge for a priest of this parish, and the Rector suggests any thankoffering in its place be made to St Paul's Foundation.)

**Parish Policy on
Weddings Celebrated in St Paul's Church
But Not Canonically in the Parish**

The marriage must fulfill the laws of the State of Illinois regarding marriage and may only be between a man and a woman. This also applies to the blessing of a previously celebrated marriage.

The wedding may not be celebrated on a Sunday, a major Holy Day, in Advent, in Lent, or at any time that conflicts with scheduled Parish events.

The officiating clergyman must be approved by the Rector.

A designated representative of the Parish must be present at both the rehearsal (if any) and the wedding. She/he is the official representative of the Rector and thus the final authority in all matters.

No church furnishings may be moved, and the sacredness of the consecrated church-proper must be treated with respect at all times. (Cellular telephones may never be used in the church, nor may food or drink be brought into the church.)

Flowers and candles may only be used at the Altar. One of the parish's designated florists must be used to provide any altar flowers.

All music is under the jurisdiction of St Paul's Director of Music who is the final authority in all matters of music. It is always his prerogative to be the musician for the service; if he does not play for the service his normal fee must nevertheless be paid (American Guild of Organists policy).

No rice, confetti, bird seed, or flower petals are permitted in the church buildings or on the church grounds.

Current charges for the Sexton, the Organist, and the use of the church as well as the refundable damage security deposit are available from the Parish Office and must be paid no less than one week before the rehearsal.