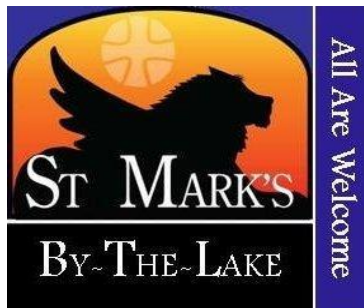




The Wedding at Cana. *John 2:1-11*



## The Celebration of Holy Matrimony

## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Marriage is a gift from God and a means of God's grace. In marriage, husband and wife give themselves to each other, and they begin a new life together in the community. An act of Christian marriage assumes a commitment to the way of Jesus Christ in the life of the couple, but also in the wider faith community.

The parish of St. Mark's by the Lake is a community of Christian people who express their faith and love for God by regularly gathering to offer praise, worship and prayer to God in the context of weekly services. Normally these services are a celebration of the Holy Eucharist where the members of the congregation are fed by the body and blood of Christ so that they may continue Christ's ministry in the world by serving others in his name.

We believe that Christian marriage is a sacrament - that is, a powerful means and sign of God's grace for God's people - and so we are committed to a vision of the marriage stated above and to your future relationship as husband and wife.

The celebration of Christian marriage is not a private affair; it is a celebration for the body of Christ, the Church. It is our belief that when you are married here, you not only involve the priest and organist, but also the whole parish family, which feels some responsibility for you not only on the day of your wedding, but also in your life together. We offer you more than a building, also an ongoing connection to a community of faith that can provide you with support and nurture in the Christian life.

We believe that a marriage with Christ at its centre is a binding and life-giving relationship through which you may know God's love and share that love with others.



## **PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE**

Because we are very much interested in the quality of your relationship as husband and wife, regular participation in the Church's worship is presumed, and a period of instruction and reflection is expected as you prepare for your marriage. Each couple is asked to meet on at least three occasions with the parish clergy. The purpose of these meetings is to make initial arrangements, prepare the wedding liturgy, take time to consider your future marriage, reflect on God's presence and the role of faith in your marriage, and come to know each other in a more meaningful way.

## **MUSIC**

As in any act of worship, music plays an important role in your celebration. Not all selections of music are suitable for weddings and use in Church. The marriage celebration is an act of Christian worship and therefore its music should direct people's attention to the love of God as made known in Jesus Christ, and contribute to the prayer and praise of the gathered community.

The choice of music for your wedding is to be made in consultation with the clergy and musician in accordance with the Canons (regulations) of the Anglican Church of Canada and supportive guidelines and suggestions.

The musician for weddings in the parish shall be the parish musician. Exception to this may be granted if some personal friend of the bride or groom is a competent musician. In such case, the congregation's musician is still entitled to his/her fee. However, the decision to have a friend shall not be accepted and extended without the approval of the clergy and church organist.

Soloists or instrumentalists must be chosen in consultation with the church organist. The use of taped music is unacceptable for use in liturgy.



## **FLOWERS**

Arrangements for flowers should be made in consultation with the clergy and the chancel guild. Artificial flowers are not normally permitted. Dried arrangements or other special needs can be negotiated with the clergy. It is your responsibility to order the flowers for your wedding and to ensure that they will be delivered by 10:00 a.m. on the day of your wedding.

Flowers normally remain at the church for the Sunday morning worship services following your wedding. Please be in touch with the church office to arrange to speak with someone from the chancel guild.

## **BANNS OR LICENCES**

Marriage by banns will be considered only for those who have been in regular attendance at Church services for a sustained period of time. Otherwise, the couple must purchase a marriage licence at the Town Hall. The licence must be submitted to the Church office no later than one week prior to the date of your wedding.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Because of the wedding ceremony's solemn nature, it is our custom that no photographs be taken during the liturgy. Exceptions are permitted during the bridal procession, the signing of the register and after the dismissal. If you like, parts of the ceremony can be re-enacted after the liturgy for photo purposes. Videos are permitted but the videographer must remain stationary.

## THE SERVICE

The Anglican Church has a fixed liturgy as part of its tradition. This means you will not be able to write your own vows. There are many ways in which you can make this special service your own though. You will be invited to choose readings, the method of bridal entrance, the method of introduction, the place of the register signing, and whether or not your service will take place in the context of the Eucharist. If you have friends or family who you would like to involve as readers, please invite them to read at your wedding and advise them to be present at the rehearsal. All of these details can be discussed with clergy as you prepare for you wedding.

## INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

There are, of course, many times when people of vastly different religious traditions fall in love and choose to be married. Special arrangement can and will be made to accommodate interfaith ceremonies with sensitivity and integrity. All are welcome at the church of St. Mark by the Lake, but understandably, we may not be able to accommodate every request for weddings in a particular way.

## USE OF THE UNITY CANDLE

Though becoming increasingly popular at weddings, St. Mark's by the Lake does not observe the Unity Candle custom in its marriage celebrations. While some of the significance of this rite is to be commended, there are a number of meanings suggested by it that are misleading or in conflict with the Christian understanding of marriage. Since your union finds expression in the words of your vows, the joining of hands and the rings given and received, it is preferable that the unity candle not be used in your wedding celebration.

## CLERGY

Arrangements for your wedding service are made and supervised by

the Rector. Other clergy are welcome (with the approval of the Rector) to assist within the context of the liturgy. The invitation for their participation must come from the parish clergy at the earliest opportunity. You are responsible for the transportation, accommodation, and stipend of guest clergy. There is no fee for the service of the clergy.

## THE REHEARSAL

The Rehearsal normally takes place the evening prior to the wedding, however, that is not always possible. It should be a time when the entire wedding party, the readers, and the parents can be in attendance. The purpose of the rehearsal is to help you, the wedding party and those serving in liturgical ministries to prepare well for the celebration.

## FEES AND HONOURARIA

There is no fee for the administration of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony; it is a celebration of faith and an act of the church proclaiming God's goodness and grace. However, as the provision of necessary work and extra costs on the part of people whose normal duties do not require their presence at weddings, the following fees should be given:

Organist:	\$150.00(ceremony) \$50.00 (per rehearsal with soloists or at wedding rehearsal)
Worship Booklet:	At Cost
Custodian:	\$100
Chancel Guild	\$50

It is customary for the officiating cleric to receive an honorarium (the amount is at the discretion of the bride and groom), and for non-members of the Parish Vestry to make a tax receipted donation to the Church. For these considerations the parish of St. Mark by the Lake recommends each of the following as a guideline:

Clergy Honourarium	\$175.00
Church Donation	\$300.00

Fees and Honouraria should be given to the cleric at the wedding rehearsal. Each of the above should be submitted in a separate marked envelope with the appropriate amount in each. If you are writing cheques they should be made out to the individual and not the Church (except in the case of the church donation).

## **GUIDELINES**

1. If you are not a member of St. Mark's by the Lake, you will be expected to attend church and become a part of the Parish.
2. Consult the Rector before you make any date commitments.
3. 90 days notice is required by Canon Law.
4. Previously married couples must receive approval from the clergy person for their Marriage to be solemnized.
5. Anglican weddings take place in the church. Exceptions to this rule are rare and generally only in circumstances of emergency or the ill health of a family member.
6. At least one of the couple must be baptised (a practicing Christian).
7. You will be expected to participate in a marriage preparation programme.
8. It is your responsibility to purchase a licence. Marriage by banns will be considered only for those who have been in regular attendance at services at St. Mark's by the Lake for a sustained period of time.
9. Please submit your marriage licence to the Church no later than one week prior to the date of your wedding. Licences must be purchased at least four days prior to the wedding day, but must not be more than three months old.
10. Weddings are not celebrated during Holy Week (the week leading up to and including Easter), and on Christmas Day. Other than in exceptional circumstances weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent or on the day of Christmas Eve.
11. Scattering of confetti, rice, birdseed, flower petals or anything else is not permitted in the Church or on Church property.

If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure please feel free to contact the Rector of the parish.

### **Church Address**

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### **Contact**

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*The policy outlined in this brochure is based on church tradition, the Canons of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, and the practices of the Anglican Church of St. Mark by the Lake (Diocese of Huron).*