



Marriage in the Church

St. Augustine's Anglican Church
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"let love be genuine" Romans 12:9

Dear couple,

Greetings in Christ, and thank you for allowing us to share in this life passage with you.

It is our goal to provide you with the best wedding possible, however, we are ultimately more concerned about the marriage relationship that follows the ceremony. As such, this booklet will outline some of the tasks and logistics that lead up to a good wedding – and will put you in good stead for the life that will follow.

Thank you – Staff and clergy of St. Augustine’s

Question: Why the church?

We think marriage in the church is great, though it needs to be said, that it will likely demand more of you than other opportunities for a wedding. The focus in the church is not on the legal binding paper that is signed – that is a small part that we do to appease our government structures and participate in local community. Instead the focus of marriage in the church is on the self-giving love of God expressed in your relationship. The church also holds that marriage is not only about the couple, but that the fruit of that relationship (shared life, overcoming differences, love in suffering) is for the betterment of the world. The church also speaks of marriage as a gift of God – one that we receive with thankfulness, and treat always as an act of God’s generosity towards us. Marriage is a serious engagement in the life of God and in the life of another, and as our marriage service reads, “none should lightly undertake.”

If you are not particularly connected to the church right now, we suggest you take this time to listen to the preaching, engage the community, and learn what the teaching of the church is as you explore marriage in the church. The wedding ceremony itself is an act of worship, and Sunday mornings are very similar.

Preparation Required

You will meet with the priest 3-4 times for sure and it is his/her discretion if more meetings are required. Preparation with the priest will cover 'sacramental preparation' – conversation about the nature of marriage, personal issues that you may face in marriage, theology of marriage, and marriage in the church.

Other Preparation

You are also encouraged to seek out a relational marriage preparation program. There are a number of good courses around Edmonton. These sessions will cover themes of money, intimacy, communication, legalities, and so on. To start, look up dates at the following centers to see what works for you: Cornerstone Counselling, The Family Center, Catholic Social Services.

You also might want to invite yourself over for supper with any couples whom you respect. Sit them down and ask them what makes their relationship tick. Be bold and ask them to prepare a simple talk about the things they would pass on to you about Christian marriage. This can be a very fruitful time, and most couples would feel honored to be asked.

Other Details

- The date of the wedding will be confirmed at the end of your first meeting with the priest.
- It is a legal requirement that a **marriage license** be signed at the ceremony, in the presence of witnesses. This license may be created at any registry center (check ID requirements) within 90 days of the wedding. This can be held at the church for safe-keeping until the ceremony.
- A rehearsal date will be booked for a day or two in advance of the ceremony. All people who will be involved in the wedding ought to be in attendance.
- Other details of the ceremony will be worked out with the priest including scripture readings, music, etc.

Recommended Donations

Note: In order to facilitate your taxable receipts (space use donation), we ask that separate cheques be submitted for each line item. Cheques are made out to st. Augustine's Anglican Church.

- **No connection with the church**
 - Organist fees* \$150
 - Priest's honorarium \$300
 - Space usage \$450

- **Occasional Attenders**
 - Organist fees* \$150
 - Priest's honorarium \$300
 - Space usage \$200

- **Regular Attenders**
 - Organist fees* \$150
 - Priest's honorarium \$300

**organist's fees are set to RCCO standards and are the only required fee for the wedding. (these may be given in cash to the musician.)*

