



Weddings at Calvary Church

CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PITTSBURGH + PENNSYLVANIA

Weddings at Calvary Church

God intends the union of two people in heart, body, and mind for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity.

Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer, page 422

A wedding is a blessed and joyous occasion and we are glad that you wish to celebrate your marriage here at Calvary Episcopal Church. We at Calvary hope that we can be a part of making your wedding day a holy and sacred time. 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. Human beings were created to be in relationship with God, creation, and each other. The wedding service is a time to celebrate a new expression of our ultimate purpose in life.

Here at Calvary Episcopal Church the clergy, people, and staff strive to treat each couple with grace and love. No couple is denied the blessing of their marriage on the basis of their sexual orientation. The Episcopal Church has two wedding services, each service offering the church's blessing on the couple and their relationship. The clergy will work with each couple to plan your wedding.

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 particular questions and concerns.

Please let us know how we can be of service to you as you prepare for this special occasion. Know that our prayers are with you.

Every blessing... *Jonathon, Leslie, and Neil*



First

Please notify Calvary Church as soon as you know that you wish to get married here. Do not publish a date or make any final arrangements for a reception, until one of the clergy has agreed to officiate and the date and time are cleared with the parish office. *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. Please note, for weddings during the summer months, that the church is not air-conditioned.

Requirements for Marriage

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two people in the presence of God.

—Adapted from *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. Each individual is 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 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.

Preparation for Marriage

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 24 hours before the ceremony (or at the wedding rehearsal).

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, four sessions are required. In exceptional circumstances, such as when the couple lives 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 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 officiating priest from Calvary Episcopal Church will have final decision-making authority on all aspects of the 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).¹ *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2* is available online². Wedding ceremonies at Calvary Church must conform to these services. In 2015, the Episcopal Church approved the use of *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2* for same-sex couples, this is the rite that the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and Calvary Episcopal Church use for those ceremonies. 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.

Certain items are not permitted during weddings at Calvary Episcopal Church, i.e. unity candle, rice, bubbles, aisle runner, animals, or lanterns. *This is not an all-inclusive list.*

1. www.bcponline.org/PastoralOffices/marriage.html

2. https://www.churchpublishing.org/contentassets/104caa0c8b8741819c171f642de395a3/the_celebration_and_blessing_of_a_marriage_2.pdf

Wedding Coordinator

Calvary Episcopal Church has an official wedding coordinator. She will be available to assist in the preparation and planning for your wedding and in the coordination of the rehearsal and ceremony. No outside wedding coordinator is needed or permitted at Calvary.

Music

Music – be it instrumental or vocal, congregational or choral – can be a beautiful adornment of a wedding liturgy. The Director of Music will be glad to guide you in the selection of music, and will happily meet with you, at a mutually agreeable time, to begin this process; planning ahead is always a good idea. He will make every effort to accommodate particular requests you may have, within the general parameters of music in this parish. (Briefly, these exclude inherently secular or profane vocal or choral texts, and music deemed by the musician to be unsuitable for inclusion in the context of a service.)

The “default” musical assumption for wedding music at Calvary is the use of the organ, played by one of the parish organists. If neither of them is available for your service, a substitute will be secured by them. In the event that one of the parish organists would be available, but the services of a different organist are desired by the couple, instead, permission for his/her use of the instrument is the prerogative of the Director of Music, and arrangements for necessary preparation must be made, well in advance, with him. (Compensation for any such substitute organist selected and engaged by the couple is the responsibility of the couple, and not of the parish.)

The engagement and inclusion of other or additional musical resources – instrumental, vocal, or choral – is also an option. The Director of Music must approve the participation of any such performers, and the music they will offer, well in advance. Coordinating with other performers can represent a significant increase in the time required of the Director of Music, and additional fixed or hourly fees appropriately apply, depending upon the nature of the additional responsibilities. The couple are responsible for the payment of any agreed-upon fees for additional musicians to the church at least two weeks in advance of the ceremony, for appropriate disbursement through Calvary’s financial office to the performers. *Any arrangements with musicians for the reception are made independent of the church.*

Guidelines for appropriate fees for additional musicians (subject to availability):

Vocal soloist or choral section-leader:	\$150
Trumpeter (per musician):	\$200
Timpanist (professional):	\$200
(student):	\$ 50
Assisting organist:	\$200

May be needed at the discretion of the Director of Music, in the event of choral or substantial instrumental forces being involved.

Finally, the Calvary Choir is a prominent part of the parish's musical ministry, and requests are sometimes made for the Choir to sing at weddings. The Choir is composed almost entirely of volunteers, who may or may not be available for a given occasion; their individual availability whether having a choir is possible. Depending on the size of the choral forces desired or available, a substantial contribution should appropriately be made to the Friends of Music in recognition of this participation (a rate of \$50 to \$100 per participating singer is suggested).

Order of Service or Program

An order of service allows those attending the wedding to follow and participate more fully 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.
4. We invite you to remove flowers from the church after the ceremony.

Photography

Photographs and videos provide meaningful keepsakes of your wedding day. However, photographers or videographers who are obtrusive and intrusive can irreparably diminish the wedding experience. To avoid this problem, Calvary Church has guidelines about wedding photography and videography. All photographers are asked to meet with the officiating priest prior to the wedding liturgy to discuss these standards; preferably during the rehearsal, but arrangements can be made to meet at another time.

All photographers must be approved by the wedding coordinator.

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 well in advance with the wedding coordinator. The rehearsal will be about one hour.

The Day of the Wedding

The wedding party may arrive up to ninety minutes and no later than sixty minutes prior to the ceremony for the purpose of last-minute preparations, pre-wedding photographs, etc. Any pre-wedding photographs must be completed at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony. The Parlor will be made available for the wedding party and their immediate families. Members of the wedding party may elect to dress at the church, but should be aware that the facilities for such preparations are limited. The wedding 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 \$1,500. This fee covers the cost for the wedding coordinator, the organist, the sexton, and the sound technician, as well as other incidental expenses. This fee is not meant to be a barrier to any couple who wishes to have their marriage at Calvary Church, thus if the cost may be prohibitive to you please speak with your officiating clergy.

The fee for all other persons is \$3,000. In addition to the expenses listed above, this includes a fee for the use of the church. Please note that Calvary Church is open to marriages for couples who are not members of the parish, but that there will need to be extra conversations with a member of the clergy regarding this possibility.

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	\$150
Trumpeter	\$200
Timpanist	\$200
Aisle Candles	\$300 (18 center aisle candles)

Payment in full is due two weeks before the ceremony. The marriage license will not be mailed to the county until payment has been received.

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 counseling after the ceremony as well, to help you live out the vows that you make on your wedding day.




CALVARY
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Welcoming all in the name of Christ

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