



The Sacrament of Marriage at Trinity

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! Christian marriage is a sacred commitment made and celebrated in the presence of God and before the priest and congregation. The Church's role is to bless a couple's vows for their lifelong relationship and communion with God.

Trinity Church Requirements

Trinity requires at least six months' advance notice prior to a wedding. If either party has been married before and divorced, and the former spouse is still living, eight months between the initial inquiry and the date of the wedding is required. Only Trinity clergy officiate weddings at Trinity Church.

The Episcopal Church Requirements

According to the Book of Common Prayer, for marriage in The Episcopal Church, "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 canons of this Church."

The Episcopal Church requires premarital preparation. The intent of this preparation is threefold:

- To deepen the relationship between the couple and the Church
- To examine the various aspects of the couple's own relationship
- To assist the couple in preparing for a lifelong Christian marriage

Trinity's premarital process offers a sacred space for the couple to prepare for the sacrament of marriage.

Civil Requirements

In order to obtain a marriage license, both parties must appear together at any office of a city clerk in the State of New York. In Manhattan, the Marriage License Bureau is in the Office of the City Clerk, 141 Worth Street, near City Hall. The website for applications and appointments is: cityclerk.nyc.gov/content/marriage-license.

The couple is required to bring the marriage license to the wedding rehearsal before the ceremony.

The Wedding Ceremony

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a sacrament of the Church and is found in the Book of Common Prayer. There are some options for readings that the couple may select. Trinity welcomes interfaith marriages, and scriptures and readings from other faiths may be incorporated into the liturgy with the cooperation of the officiating priest and approval of the vicar.

Personal written vows may not be used in lieu of the vows of the liturgy.

Clergy from other Episcopal churches, denominations, or faiths may be invited to assist with a wedding ceremony with the approval and at the discretion of the vicar. Trinity clergy are required to officiate the exchange of vows and the Marriage Blessing.

A personalized printed order of service (bulletin) will be provided by Trinity Church in consultation with the officiating priest.

The Blessing of a Civil Marriage

For those who have married in the presence of a civil authority, the Book of Common Prayer provides for a blessing in the church, including the exchange of vows and the giving and receiving of rings.

Scheduling a Wedding at Trinity Church

Dates and times for the ceremony and rehearsal are scheduled in consultation with the associate director for Parish Life. Weddings may be held in Trinity Church, the Chapel of All Saints, or St. Paul's Chapel. Weekday weddings are scheduled based on church availability. Saturday weddings may be scheduled between 10am and 3pm. Weddings are not scheduled on Sundays.

Weddings are not performed during the season of Lent (the 40 days prior to Easter), Advent (4 weeks before Christmas), or Christmastide (12 days of Christmas). Wedding dates are not official until the contract is

signed, the down payment (half the flat fee and the full security deposit) is received, and email confirmation is given to the couple.

We advise that no public or printed announcement of a wedding be made until the couple has received the official confirmation email.

Music

Music for a wedding reflects and enriches the sacred nature of the ceremony. Couples may select music from our recommended list of music for the Rite of Matrimony. Music selections that are not included on the recommended list must be approved by Trinity Church. Music outside of the sacred repertoire (popular songs, show tunes, etc.) is not appropriate for the liturgy and is best used at your reception.

One of our parish organists will be assigned to your wedding date (included in the flat fee). You may also expand your music with the addition of a Trinity Choir soloist or instrumentalist. The cost of hiring additional musicians is detailed below.

Participation of any guest musician, including friends or family, is subject to approval by Trinity Church, and professional materials such as biography and/or a demo recording may be requested.

All requests or questions about wedding music may be directed to the associate director at least two months prior to the wedding date. When appropriate, Trinity's music staff is available to consult with couples regarding music for their wedding.

Flowers

In Trinity, flowers for Sunday services are installed on Friday mornings and will be in place for all weddings; they may not be altered or removed. Trinity's florist is informed of all weddings and, when possible, will use neutral colors so not to clash with wedding colors. If a couple would like the Trinity florist to take their wedding colors into consideration for the Sunday arrangements, that information may be given to the associate director at least three weeks before the wedding. This does not guarantee any specific colors or flowers will be used in the Sunday arrangements.

In St. Paul's Chapel, there are no weekly floral arrangements. If floral arrangements in St. Paul's or additional arrangements in Trinity Church are desired, arrangements may be made directly with Trinity's florist, whose contact information is available upon request.

Arrangements by outside florists are not permitted.

Photographer

Photographs provide beautiful memories of this sacred event. To ensure the reverence of the ceremony, couples and their photographer are required to sign a photography agreement, which provides guidelines to ensure that photography, whether by guests or professionals, does not disrupt or distract from the sacrament for either the couple or the guests. These guidelines include that no flash may be used during the ceremony and guests must remain in their seats during the ceremony.

Posed pictures may be taken either before or after the ceremony and will be scheduled with the associate director.

Videography

Trinity does not allow outside videographers, including family and friends, to videotape the ceremony. Live-streaming and a recording of the wedding are available for an additional fee. A private link for the livestream is provided prior to the wedding; a video recording will be available for download afterward at the same link.

Other Protocols

A wedding at Trinity establishes a pastoral relationship between the couple and the church. Therefore, Trinity staff communicate directly with the couple and do not engage with wedding planners or other representatives of the couple.

For safety reasons, no aisle runner is to be used at any time.

Unity candles are not a part of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage.

The use of rice, confetti, or rose petals is not permitted in the church or on the pavement outside.

No outside food or drink, other than water, is permitted in the church.

Parking

Parking on the streets near the church is extremely limited. The Battery Parking Garage at 70 Greenwich Street is near Trinity Church. Barclay St. Garage at 18 Vesey Street is near St. Paul's Chapel.

Wedding Fees

Trinity Church Flat Fee | \$5,000

Security Deposit | \$1,000

Total | \$6,000

To reserve the date, the security deposit and half of the flat fee must be paid after signing the Wedding Services Agreement.

The security deposit is refundable but may be forfeited under certain conditions as defined in the Wedding Services Agreement.

Your final payment is due one month prior to your wedding.

The following services are optional:

Trinity Choir Vocalist | \$350 each

Instrumentalist (i.e., trumpet, violin) | \$350 each

Livestream | \$1,800

Trinity Choir | Consult with Organist

For more information, please contact:

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