



**CHRIST
CHURCH
CATHEDRAL**

The Celebration and Blessing
of Holy Marriage

Glorify God • Serve Our Neighbors • Transform Our City

The Celebration and Blessing of Holy Marriage at Christ Church Cathedral

All Christians are called to bear witness to the Good News of God's grace and love in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are empowered for such witness by our Sacramental relationship with God. Holy Baptism makes us Christ's own forever, members of Christ's Body, the Church. The Holy Eucharist sustains us in that Sacramental life and strengthens us to be Christ's witnesses in the world.

Our Sacramental life with God is also expressed in relationships of commitment and faithfulness. It is the Church's joy to celebrate these relationships as signs of God's love, to pray for God's grace to support couples in their life together, and to join with these couples in our shared witness to the Gospel in the world. At Christ Church Cathedral, we provide this Sacrament to couples who are making life-long, exclusive, vowed commitments.

Holy Marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two persons in the presence of God. It begins with your desire to form a lasting, life-long partnership with one another in God's love, and continues throughout your lives as a process of intentional living and growing together. In a marriage, each of you as an individual, and together as a couple, gradually transforms and matures in God's presence and image. A blessed relationship is set apart for a divine purpose: to bear witness to the creating, redeeming, sanctifying love of God in the world.

Holy Matrimony marks the ending of former ways of life and other future possibilities and establishes a particular pathway into the future—one that you promise to travel together. By uniting within the context of a faith community, you recognize that God is active in the love you feel for one another, and you place your relationship in God's care. Your individual stories—and your story as a couple—are celebrated within the context of the story of God and God's ways with the human community.

Your Holy Marriage celebrates a life-long, exclusive commitment made one to another. You make your vows before God and the gathered community of family, friends, and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help you fulfill your vows. Your marriage serves as a Sacrament—an outward and visible sign of God's grace bringing you together and nurturing your love.

For all marriages, Christ Church Cathedral uses liturgies authorized by the Episcopal Church.

About Christ Church Cathedral and the Episcopal Church

Christ Church Cathedral is a community in which God is encountered by all people. People at every stage of their spiritual journey find a home at our Cathedral. We are a House of Prayer for all people, a Church for our City, and a Cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.

At our core, we are a community of Christians from different walks of life united by our common prayers and our commitment to serve the world in Christ's name. Two main purposes drive all we do: prayer and service. We keep daily, weekly, and seasonal rhythms of prayer. Sometimes our prayer is very simple and quiet, such as at our weekday services. At other times, such as Christmas Eve and on Easter Day, our worship is rich in beauty and celebratory. Our life of service empowers us to partner with local organizations who serve the poor, marginalized, and those at risk.

We are a part of the Episcopal Church, and the Episcopal Church is part of the larger Anglican Communion in the world. Our denomination grew out of the Church of England, and includes more than 70 million members from many traditions and many countries and peoples. Our Anglican Communion takes seriously the idea of a community of faith in which people from different backgrounds and varying perspectives can openly share their experiences of God, can pray for each

other, can understand worship together as our unifying principle, and can thereby gain insights from each other that may help the whole community move closer to God's truth and love.

Welcome

Holy Marriage is available at our Cathedral for active members of our congregation and their families, as well as for fellow Episcopalians throughout the Diocese of Indianapolis and those interested in exploring becoming part of a church community.

If you are an **active member** of the Cathedral, please contact the Rev. Canon Greg Baker to schedule an initial meeting, where you will receive an information packet, review possible dates and times for your ceremony, and establish a schedule for your pre-ceremony counseling.

If you are an **active member of another congregation in the Diocese of Indianapolis**, please ask your parish Rector, Vicar, or Priest-in-Charge to contact The Very Rev. Gray Lesesne, our Dean and Rector, with the date and time you desire, along with your contact information, at Christ Church Cathedral, 125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

If you are not a member of the Cathedral, we welcome the opportunity to get to know you and to introduce you to our faith community. A relationship with you is important to us, as we want to know you and support you in your lifelong journey together. We ask that you and your partner participate in our Catechumenate (a weekly gathering for newcomers that meets on a weeknight from January through April) prior to your requesting a marriage here.

Holy Marriage in the Episcopal Church

Holy Marriage in the Episcopal Church is governed by *The Book of Common Prayer*, Canon law, and the laws of the State of Indiana. The *Book of Common Prayer* is the foundation for all worship services in the Episcopal Church and provides the liturgical framework in which a marriage is celebrated.

To be legally married at Christ Church Cathedral, we require:

- You are an active member of Christ Church Cathedral or another congregation within the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, or that you have completed our Catechumenate program and are actively exploring a life of faith.
- One of the partners is baptized.
- Completion of at least three pre-ceremony counseling sessions (and any referrals required), along with the consent of the officiating clergy.
- The ceremony is attested by at least two witnesses.
- The Marriage must conform to the laws of the State of Indiana and to the Canons of the Episcopal Church. The couple must present a valid Marriage License from any Indiana County Clerk of Court to the officiating priest at the rehearsal ceremony.

Scheduling

Holy Marriage at the Cathedral is typically celebrated on Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. during seasons of the Church year that focus on the celebration of new life. We typically do not celebrate weddings during Lent. The Cathedral and Cathedral Clergy are not available to celebrate Weddings during Holy Week and from December 15th to January 6th. So that you may have the best experience possible, the Cathedral only accommodates one wedding per day. Rehearsals are typically scheduled on Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. and last exactly one hour.

Except in cases of unforeseen pastoral emergency, we require nine months advance notice for any prospective marriage. This allows plenty of time to plan your liturgy, complete preparatory

counseling, and for you to attend our Catechumenate if you are new. In addition, this requirement increases the chances that your chosen date will be available, given the Cathedral's full schedule.

Liturgy dates and times are scheduled by the officiating priest, subject to the final approval of the Dean. As you plan, please be aware that you may arrive up to two hours before the service and stay for up to one hour after the ceremony. We ask that you take responsibility for seeing that both the rehearsal and the ceremony times are honored, as we often have other services scheduled within a reasonable time after your ceremony. Indianapolis traffic, particularly on summer weekends, can be counted on to delay everyone, so please plan accordingly.

Clergy

A member of the Cathedral clergy always serves as the officiant at the ceremony of Cathedral members. Other clergy licensed or canonically resident in the Diocese of Indianapolis may perform marriages for their own parishioners. Episcopal clergy who are not canonically resident in our Diocese or licensed by our Bishop may participate in the ceremony, with the invitation of the officiant and with the permission of our Bishop. Clergy from other traditions are welcome to preach or offer prayers at the liturgy, with the invitation of the officiant. Please notify the priest officiating at your ceremony if you wish to have him or her invite other clergy to assist.

In Cases of Previous Marriage

If one or both of you have been divorced from a previous marriage dissolved, permission to solemnize your marriage must be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese well in advance of your ceremony. Please inform the officiating priest so that proper steps can be taken. You will be asked to provide a copy of your divorce decree or dissolution to the officiating priest. In making such decisions, the Bishop considers:

- The depth of understanding of the individual as to why the previous relationship did not endure.
- The continuing care of and consideration for any children involved in the relationship;
- Faithfulness to the dissolution agreements of the previous marriage.

Pre-Ceremony Preparation

While the ceremony itself is very important, the development of a solid foundation for your ongoing lifelong relationship is of greater significance. Because we want to support your living into your vows in an intentional and faithful way, Christ Church Cathedral requires preparation of all couples who seek Holy Marriage.

All couples are required to complete three to five counseling sessions with a priest prior to any ceremony, and may be referred to outside specialists for additional preparation at the discretion of the officiating priest. Newcomers joining the Cathedral community also must be a part of the Catechumenate, a three-month course and an opportunity for reflection on adult faith commitments as Christians and as in the Episcopal Church.

Music

Music is an integral part of many weddings. Because a wedding is a service of worship, the liturgical guidelines for music are subject to the same standards as music for any other worship service; secular pieces are not permitted at Christ Church Cathedral, and all music requested is subject to approval by the Director of Music and the Dean.

Prior to meeting with your priest to make final wedding preparations, please make every effort to decide from the choices below what music you would like at your service. Recordings of all hymns and pieces should be easily available online via YouTube, iTunes, or Spotify.

The following is a list of pieces deemed most suitable and appropriate for use in the Cathedral.

Procession of the Bride

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J. S. Bach
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel
Canon in D by Pachelbel
Bridal March (from *Lohengrin*) by Wagner

Recession of the Bride and Groom

Sinfonia to Cantata 29 by J. S. Bach
Wedding March by Mendelssohn
Crown Imperial by Walton
Toccata (from *Symphonie V*) by Widor

While some of these pieces have a secular background, tradition has deemed them acceptable for use at church services.

A hymn (or hymns) sung by the entire congregation is also appropriate and encouraged. The following are considered most suitable for a wedding ceremony (and may be found in the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982*):

376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
410 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
518 Christ is made the sure foundation
516 Come down, O Love divine
645 The King of Love my shepherd is
653 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
657 Love Divine all loves excelling
671 Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound

If the service is also to include the celebration of the Eucharist, the following are also appropriate (and may be found in the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982*):

325 Let us break bread together on our knees
460 Alleluia Sing to Jesus

In addition, one of the Cathedral's professional staff singers may be hired to assist in leading the congregational singing and, if desired, to sing one of the following solo items:

Laudate Dominum by Mozart
Ave Maria by Schubert
Ave Maria by Bach/Gounod
Come my way, my truth, my life by Vaughan Williams

Alternatively, you may wish to hire the full Cathedral Choir. If this is the case, please contact the Cathedral's Canon Director of Music at least six months prior to your ceremony.

If you require any further assistance, the Canon Director of Music, who is responsible for the music at all Cathedral wedding ceremonies, is available to offer advice and guidance to you.

Your service leaflet

Because of the participatory nature of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, your service leaflet

is a very important part of your wedding preparation process. The service leaflet contains information that guides those in attendance at your ceremony and helps them actively participate. The Cathedral prepares these leaflets for all ceremonies (including those of members from other Episcopal congregations), and we cannot accommodate special or pre-purchased covers.

Decorations

Candles: Altar candles will be lit for your ceremony. Additional candles, including unity candles, are not part of Episcopal wedding liturgies and are not permitted.

Flowers: One or two large flower arrangements may be placed at the altar. Altar flowers that you provide for the worship space remain in the Cathedral following the ceremony for the Sunday service, and we acknowledge your ceremony in the Sunday service bulletins. To minimize damage to our historic church, flowers and other decorations are not permitted on the pews. We recommend having your florist visit the Cathedral to see the space that is available at the Altar.

Aisle Runners are not permitted.

Photography and Videography

We work to maintain a joyful and sacred atmosphere in the blessing of Holy Marriages.. Professional photographers understand this, and they will agree to minimize distractions and respect the sacred nature of the ceremony and the building itself. Flash photography is not permitted during the liturgy and may be used before and after the ceremony only. During the ceremony, professional photography is only permitted from the back of the church or from the gallery. Please invite your photographer to the rehearsal so that she or he is familiar with the space.

Please inform your guests that flash photography is not allowed during your liturgy. The liturgical portion of your printed service leaflet will include an announcement asking guests to refrain from taking photographs.

Videography of your ceremony is permitted from the gallery. Special lighting may not be used, and the videographer should remain in the back of the church. You may wish to invite the videographer to your rehearsal so that he or she may be better prepared on the day of the service.

Facilities

The Cathedral comfortably seats 300 guests (maximum capacity is 350). Confetti, rice, birdseed, and rose petals, balloons, and other such items are not permitted inside the Cathedral or on the Cathedral steps. Bubbles or rose petals may be used outside the Cathedral as you leave following your service.

The Cathedral can accommodate small receptions or rehearsal dinners, depending on the parish calendar and staff availability. Catering may be arranged by church staff. Contact your officiating priest for more information. Receptions must be completed and the Parish Hall must be cleared no later than 8 p.m. to facilitate set-up for Sunday morning services.

Limousines and Special Transportation

If you plan to use a limousine or other special transportation after your ceremony, please note the area in front of the Cathedral is a drop-off zone not available for parking. Your driver should park on Meridian Street, and he/she should remain with the vehicle at all times.

Parking

If parking arrangements are included in your ceremony package, parking is available in the Express Park Garage (Market and Pennsylvania Streets). Please have your guests bring their parking tickets to the Cathedral for validation.

Rehearsal

The purpose of a rehearsal is to help you and your party be more comfortable with your roles in the liturgy. Attentive participation in the rehearsal helps every person, regardless of his or her role, become more familiar and comfortable with the worship space and the liturgy itself—thereby helping everyone to be more fully present to you and to God on the day of your wedding.

Rehearsals begin at 4 p.m. on the day before the ceremony and conclude by 5 p.m., prior to our regularly scheduled liturgy of daily Evening Prayer. Our sexton will be present at the rehearsal and provides assistance to the officiant, who directs the rehearsal. Your photographer and videographer should also attend. If you have employed a bridal consultant, he or she should also plan to attend. *However, bridal consultants do not provide any direction of the rehearsal or ceremony.*

Please note: it is required that you bring a valid Indiana Marriage License to the rehearsal. These may be obtained from any Indiana County Clerk of Court prior to the rehearsal ceremony. These licenses must be obtained at least several days in advance and are not available on Saturdays.

It is not possible to go forward with a Holy Marriage ceremony in the absence of a marriage license.

The Day of the Liturgy

In addition to the one-hour rehearsal, the standard fee includes use of the Cathedral for a maximum of four hours on your day of your ceremony. This includes time for photography. Dressing room facilities are provided at the Cathedral, but they are limited. All should arrive dressed and ready for the ceremony. A private room and restroom are provided for final preparations.

While we encourage you to celebrate your wedding with whatever food and beverages you choose after the ceremony, please know that Indiana law prohibits clergy from officiating at any wedding where either one of the persons to be married is intoxicated. Please refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages or from using other substances that may impair your judgment on the day of your wedding.

Christ Church Cathedral Wedding Preparation Checklist

- ☐ Schedule in-person meeting with parish clergy.
- ☐ Determine and reserve date and time with officiating clergy at least nine months in advance.
- ☐ Complete information form and return with deposit. (Weddings are not placed on the Cathedral calendar until this form and deposit are returned.)
- ☐ Return signed Declaration of Intention.
- ☐ For newcomers, enroll in Catechumenate (begins in January).
- ☐ Arrange for preparatory sessions with officiant.
- ☐ Listen to suggested hymns and entrance music online to make musical selections.
- ☐ Meet with clergyperson to finalize liturgy, including:
 - Scriptural selections
 - Music selections
 - Participants
- ☐ Return Ceremony Information Form to officiant (no later than 4 weeks prior to ceremony).
- ☐ Pay final fees (no later than 4 weeks prior to ceremony).
- ☐ Obtain Marriage License and present to officiating priest.
- ☐ Rehearsal with clergy, attendants, ushers, readers, family, photographers/videographers, etc.

**Holy Marriage
Information Form 1
(to be returned with deposit)**

Partner 1 Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone 1: _____

Phone 2: _____ Date of birth: _____

I am (*check all that apply*): ☐ Baptized ☐ Confirmed ☐ Member of Christ Church Cathedral
 ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced (*first page of your divorce decree[s] required*)

Father's full name: _____

Father's place of birth: _____

Mother's full name: _____

Mother's place of birth: _____

Partner 2 Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone 1: _____

Phone 2: _____ Date of birth: _____

I am (*check all that apply*): ☐ Baptized ☐ Confirmed ☐ Member of Christ Church Cathedral
 ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced (*first page of your divorce decree[s] required*)

Father's full name: _____

Father's place of birth: _____

Mother's full name: _____

Mother's place of birth: _____

Ceremony date requested: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal date requested: _____ Time: _____

Return this form along with the Information Forms 2 and 3 and a check for your deposit to:
Christ Church Cathedral, 125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Holy Marriage
Information Form 2
(to be returned with deposit)**

Wedding Fees

Deposit

Cathedral usage fees include: use of facility, premarital preparation fees, contribution to Cathedral Clergy's Discretionary Fund (used to assist the poor and those in need), organist, sexton, and basic Order of Service leaflet. The Clergy provide the Sacrament without any fee, as part of their ministry at Christ Church Cathedral. *Weddings are not confirmed until a deposit is received. Weddings cancelled prior to 30 days before the wedding will receive a 50% return of deposit.*

☐ \$2,000 (\$1,000 for Cathedral members in good standing as defined by Cathedral by-laws)

Music

Music must be discussed with the Cathedral's organist well in advance of the wedding. Additional fees are charged for soloists: ☐ \$150 per soloist x _____ soloists = \$_____

Wedding Packages (select one)

☐ **Package A – No charge**

(available to members only)

Officiant only

☐ **Package B – Included in deposit**

The Marriage Service

Organist

Service Leaflet

☐ **Package D – Deposit + \$750**

The Marriage Service

Organist

Service Leaflet

Lay Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte

Parking during service

Parking during rehearsal

☐ **Package C – Deposit + \$400**

The Marriage Service

Organist

Service Leaflet

Parking during service

TOTAL: _____ + _____ + _____ = _____
Deposit Soloists Package Additions Total

Return this form along with the Information Forms 1 and 3 and a check for your deposit to:
Christ Church Cathedral, 125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Holy Marriage
Information Form 3
(to be returned with deposit)

Declaration of Intention for Holy Marriage

We, _____ and _____, understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community.

Signature

Signature

Date

Return this form along with the Information Forms 2 and 3 and a check for your deposit to:
Christ Church Cathedral, 125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Service Planning and Bulletin Information Form

(to be completed with your priest at the last pre-ceremony counseling session)

Name of Wedding: _____

Date & Time: _____

Officiant/Celebrant: _____

Assisting Clergy: _____

Holy Eucharist? ☐ Yes ☐ No Number of Bulletins needed: _____

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(select two lessons; a Gospel lesson is required if there is Holy Eucharist)*

Old Testament: _____ Reader: _____

New Testament: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel: _____ Homilist: _____

MUSIC

Prelude Music _____ Composer: _____

Processional(s): _____ Composer(s): _____

Hymns/Anthems/Solos: _____

Composer(s) _____

Recessional: _____ Composer: _____

THE WEDDING PARTY

Include full names as you wish them to appear in the program.

Partner 1's Name _____

Parents of Partner 1 _____

Maid/Matron/Best Man/ Attendant of Honor *(circle one)* _____

Bridesmaids / Groomsmen / Attendants *(circle one)*

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Partner 2's Name _____

Parents of Partner 1 _____

Maid/Matron/Best Man/ Attendant of Honor *(circle one)* _____

Bridesmaids / Groomsmen / Attendants *(circle one)*

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Ushers: _____

Others: _____

Thank you and/or Acknowledgements:
