



YOUR WEDDING

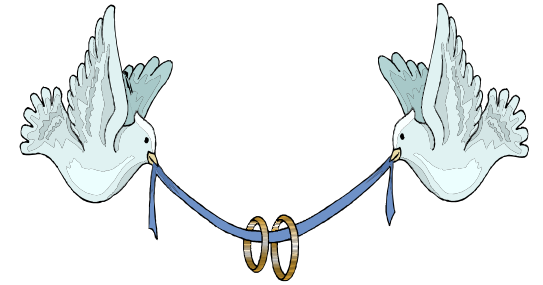
**A Christian Marriage
At
St. Thomas' Anglican Church
(est. 1818)
201 Church Street
Belleville ON K8N 5P2**

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO

BISHOP: The Rt. Rev. Canon Michael Oulton

RECTOR: The Rev. Brad Beale

MUSIC DIRECTORS:
Francine Nguyen-Savaria
Matthieu Lattreille



CONGRATULATIONS!

You are engaged and joyfully planning your wedding. As part of our family in Christ Jesus we are happy to share in your joy and celebrate this sacrament with you.

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage in a public and explicit religious manner within the Anglican faith community. This celebration of marriage is meant for those who are in the habit of regularly worshipping within the context of the Christian community. In this way you seek to bond yourselves together in Christ and to receive the prayers and support of your church family.

As an **eligibility requirement** we expect that at least one party to the marriage should be a regular member of the congregation and a baptized Christian.

We look forward to working with you to shape your wedding liturgy within the rich traditions of the Anglican Church.

GUIDELINES: Let us work together using the following guidelines to plan a memorable and happy wedding for you, as well as your families and friends to enjoy.

TIMING: In order to ensure the availability of the church, its facilities and the officiant, it is recommended that you book as early as possible. A minimum of **THREE (3) MONTHS** prior to the intended date is required. *Always confirm with the Clergy before making arrangements with caterers, printers, photographers, etc.*

PREPARATION: By Canon Law, it is the Officiant's duty to provide or secure appropriate means of education to ensure that those who seek marriage in the church come to it with a Christian understanding of its purpose and, with God's help, to give effect to the vow which they are about to make. In order to complete this requirement it is necessary to contact the clergy as soon as possible. Under no condition will a marriage be performed in St. Thomas' Church unless adequate preparation has been made.

OFFICIANT: The Officiant for your wedding will be one of the clergy of the parish who is responsible for all services in the church. By special arrangement another priest may be given permission to share in the ceremony.

REHEARSAL: A Wedding Rehearsal will normally be held the night before the wedding. It eases a great deal of anxiety. Attending the rehearsal should be the Bride and her attendants, the Groom and his attendants, and the parents of the Bride and Groom. The rehearsal is generally a walk-through of the ceremony. This takes about one hour and is time well spent.

HOLY COMMUNION: Where both the Bride and the Groom are entitled to receive Communion, it is desirable that the Form of Service in which the Marriage Rite is incorporated in the celebration of the Eucharist be used.

SIGNING THE REGISTER: It is desirable that the Register be signed publicly in the body of the Church.

WEDDING CONSULTANT: If you are using the services of a Wedding Consultant, that individual **MUST** contact the Officiant **AT LEAST THREE (3) WEEKS PRIOR TO THE REHEARSAL** to clarify whose responsibility the rehearsal will be.

FLOWERS: All arrangements for flowers should be made through the Altar Guild **ONE MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING**. The flowers will remain in the church as a thanksgiving gift from the bridal couple unless, in the case of special circumstances, other arrangements are made **IN ADVANCE**.

THROWING GOOD WISHES: PLEASE ask your guests to respect church property by not throwing confetti, rice, blowing bubbles or leaving any similar items that require janitorial services to remove.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Please have your photographer consult with the officiant prior to the ceremony. Normally, pictures may be taken before the ceremony, during the signing of the Register and after the ceremony. If requested, the Officiant is happy to pose with the Bride and Groom for pictures after the ceremony.

ALTAR GUILD: The Altar Guild is responsible for co-ordinating the decoration of the church and the preparation of the Altar. A member will meet, usually with the Bride, to discuss and carry out these arrangements.

MUSIC: All music is under the direction of the Officiant who will decide on the suitability of selections you might wish.

FEES: Fees are determined during your meeting with the priest at which time a contract will be discussed. Consideration will be given to membership in St. Thomas', ability to pay and other personal circumstances.

The wedding party will give consideration to the organist's and priest's input including preparatory and wedding time and should be relative to the cost of gowns, flowers and photographers. A suggested fee for the

Organist and Priest would equal the hourly wage of the bride or groom based on the number of hours expended.

In determining the contribution for the use of the church building consideration must be given to the cost of utilities, gardens, custodial and office staff and general upkeep. A minimum of \$500 is suggested.

In all cases, please speak to the Priest regarding final arrangement costs.

The fees are to be given to the Officiant **WITH THE WEDDING LICENSE** no later than **THE REHEARSAL**. This eliminates much confusion on your wedding day.

GIFT FOR THE POOR: It is a tradition at **St. Thomas'** to encourage you to include a gift to the poor as part of your wedding celebration. It could be a cheque to your favourite charity or parish fund for the poor. Please consider this custom as an expression of your happiness and good fortune.

<p>MISSION STATEMENT: St. Thomas' Anglican Church is a caring Christian community. Therefore, we welcome persons of any race, gender, sexual orientation, ability or economic circumstance to full participation in our community life and ministry.</p>
