

## A GIFT RECEIVED - A GIFT GIVEN

“Jesus said: Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, do not invite your friends or brothers or relatives or wealthy neighbours. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. NO, when you give a feast, invite beggars and the crippled and the lame and the blind. You should be pleased that they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid in the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14: 12 - 14)

For many of us the greatest feast we give in our lives is our wedding feast. Is it not appropriate at this time to remember our Lord's words and to include the poor in your celebration in some way? St. Thomas' sets aside more than 8% of its total parish offerings for the poor. We distribute approximately \$45,000 to local, national and international charitable institutions. We 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.

## FEES

If you are not a member of the parish i.e. if you have not been on the Parish Rolls for one (1) year prior to asking to be married here, the following fees are requested:

The Organist	\$100.00
St. Thomas Church	\$500.00
The Priest	\$125.00

(In the case of a member of the parish, the amount of the Priest's honorarium is left to your discretion.)

The fees are to be given to the Officiant **WITH THE WEDDING LICENSE** no later than **ONE MONTH BEFORE** the wedding. This eliminates much confusion at the time of the wedding.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer should be told to check with the Officiant **BEFORE** the ceremony. Normally, pictures may be taken before the ceremony begins, during the signing of the Register, and after the ceremony is over. Should the couple request it, the Officiant will pose with them for pictures **AFTER** the ceremony is over.

Photos are **NOT ALLOWED DURING** the actual ceremony as it is a time of promise before God.

Video equipment may be used as long as it **REMAINS STATIONARY** and **NO EXTRA LIGHTING** is used.

## MUSIC

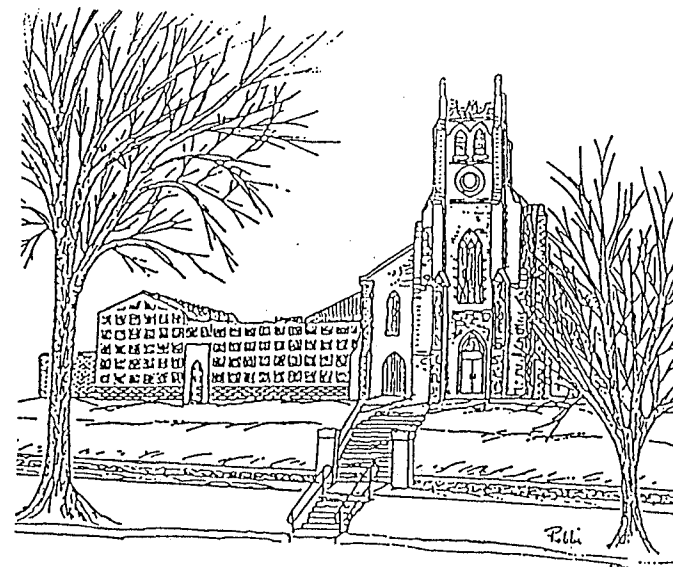
All music is under the direction of the Officiant who will decide on the suitability of selections you might wish.

## 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.

## FLOWERS

All arrangements for flowers should be made through the Altar Guild **ONE MONTH BEFORE** the wedding date. 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**.



## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

at

## ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

est, 1818

201 Church Street  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 5P2  
(613)962-3636

with St. Paul's Mission  
St. Paul Street, Belleville

## DIOCESE OF ONTARIO

BISHOP: the Rt Rev'd George Bruce

RECTOR: the Rev'd Peter Joyce

MUSIC DIRECTOR & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

the Rev'd John R. Uttley

**MISSION STATEMENT:** We are, by the grace of God, a caring community, celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ, sent to share, through the power of the Holy Spirit, His love with others.

# CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AT ST. THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

Congratulations on the announcement of your engagement and upcoming wedding. We at St. Thomas' share in your joy. You are part of us in Christ Jesus, and we are happy to celebrate this sacrament with you.

Today, there are a number of ways people choose to marry. You are choosing to celebrate your marriage in a public and explicit religious manner within the Anglican faith community. In choosing to celebrate your wedding in church as a sacrament, you seek to bond yourselves together in Christ. In doing so, you ask the church to pray with you and for you as a couple. We look forward to helping you shape your wedding liturgy within the rich traditions of the Anglican Church.

The celebration of marriage in the church is meant for church people. That is, for those who are in the habit of normally and regularly worshipping within the context of a Christian community.

The following guidelines have been designed to assist you in planning your wedding. We want to ensure that a wedding solemnized in St. Thomas' Church will be a truly memorable and happy occasion for you, your families and friends.

It is required that arrangements for the wedding be made **AT LEAST THREE (3) MONTHS BEFORE** the intended ceremony. It is desirable that the booking be made **AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BEFORE** the intended date to ensure the day and time you wish. **ALWAYS CHECK WITH THE CLERGY BEFORE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH CATERERS OR PRINTERS.** Remember, the officiant may be busy at the time you would like.

## ELIGIBILITY

At least one party to the marriage should be a regular member of the congregation.

Both parties intending to marry shall produce a copy of his/her Baptismal Certificate.

The form of Solemnization of Matrimony in the Prayer Book is provided for the marriage of Christians. No Officiant shall solemnize matrimony between two persons neither of whom has been baptized. If two persons, one of whom has not been baptized, desire to be married, the Officiant shall refer the matter to, and follow the order and direction of, the Bishop.

## PREPARATION

By Canon Law, it is the duty of the Officiant "to provide or secure appropriate means of education so that all who seek marriage in the church may come to it with a Christian understanding of its purpose and may be encouraged to give effect, with God's help, to the vow which they are going to make". For this reason, it is necessary that those intending to marry should contact the clergy as soon as possible after the engagement so that such provision may be fulfilled. Under no condition will a marriage be performed in St. Thomas' Church unless adequate preparation has been made.

## OFFICIANT

The Officiant at a wedding, in normal circumstances, will be one of the clergy of the parish who is responsible for all services in the church. By special arrangement, some other 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 tension, and calms quite a few worries. Included in any rehearsal should be the Bride and her attendants, the Groom and his attendants, and the parents of both the bride and the groom. The rehearsal usually consists of a "walk-through" of the actual service, and generally takes about one hour. It is well worth the time spent.

## HOLY COMMUNION

Where both Bride and 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.

## 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 ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE REHEARSAL** to clarify whose responsibility the rehearsal will be.

## CONFETTI

**NO** confetti is to be used on the church property.