

St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, Royal Oak



HOLY MATRIMONY

Wedding Guidelines and Information

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The Church recognizes the validity of any duly solemnized marriage, whether or not the ceremony takes place in the context of worship. What the Church brings to marriage are Christian understandings of the ceremony and of the nature of the marriage relationship itself. We believe that a couple makes their vows in the sight of God, and in the expectation that God has a vital role to play in a successful marriage. We also believe that the relationship between spouses is governed by a covenant between them, and not a contract. The mutual promises made by the partners are what makes it possible to grow old together, and also to fall short without fear of reprisal. Further, the couple agrees to the sacred and daunting task of making their relationship an open book – demonstrating the power of love to create, to sustain, and to overcome evil.

We ask that couples seeking to be married in the Church be committed not only to each other, but to these Christian principles.

The Church has some guidelines for those wishing to be married. They are as follows:

1. Marriage in our Diocese of Islands and Inlets is open to all adults who seek a Christian marriage. This includes those previously married and divorced, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. Marriages may be solemnized any day of the week except Sunday, and during the season of Lent (the 6 weeks leading up to Easter).
3. A minimum **notice** of two (2) months must be given to the parish priest, and preferably longer. This is a national requirement of Canon Law.
4. At least one party to the intended marriage should have some relationship with St. Michael and All Angels, or live in Saanich.
5. One party must be **baptized**.
6. The parish priest will be the **officiant** at the wedding. Arrangements may be made for visiting clergy to assist, at the discretion of the parish priest.
7. A **marriage licence** is required by law in BC. It is recommended that couples purchase their licence and deliver it to the parish priest in ample time for errors to be caught and addressed. The licence may be purchased up to three months before the service, and should be delivered to the parish no less than 2 weeks before the service. A Licence can be obtained at any Coast Capital Branch, at London Drugs, or at the Department of Vital Statistics. Both parties must attend, or one must bring proof of the other's identity and age.
8. **Normally marriages take place in the church.** St Michael's outdoor worship space and labyrinth are also available.
9. The **order of service** is that contained in the Book of Alternative Services, of the Anglican Church of Canada. Please note that the exhortation, declaration of intent, and vows must conform to the those approved for use throughout the Anglican Church of Canada.
10. The **Director of Music** is responsible for all music, including repertoire, and the use of other instrumentalists or soloists. All sung music must come from an authorized Hymn Book or some other suitable source. Pre-recorded music is not permitted. Contact the Church Office to obtain the contact information for the Director of Music, who will make an appointment with you to choose the music for your service.

11. **Flowers**, except for those at the altar, are provided by you. A member of the Altar Guild will be happy to assist with the placing of your flowers in the church. Contact the Church Office to obtain the name and phone number of the Guild President. Please note that **artificial flowers are not permitted**, except as pew bows.
12. **Decorations** for the church must be approved by the rector or the Altar Guild president. Nothing that requires sticky tape is to be used on the walls or pew ends; this includes cloth type "carpets". Existing decorations may not be moved or altered in any way without permission.
13. **Photographs** may be taken before the service, during the signing of the Register, and at the end of the service. Guests are to refrain from taking photographs or videos during the service. Video recording, with stationary cameras, may be permitted at the direction of the parish priest. Video livestreaming and recording may be arranged for a fee in accordance with the availability of the parish's tech staff.
14. Please ask your guests not to throw **confetti, rice or rose petals** in or near the church.
15. **Fees and gifts for the Church** are listed in Appendix A.
16. A **rehearsal** ensures that everyone in the wedding party knows what they are to do. Those needing to attend include the couple, ushers, attendants, flower and ring bearers, and anyone with a speaking part in the service, such as readers, or the person leading the prayers of the people. It is also helpful for the couple's parents to attend. Photographers are also welcome.
17. St Michael's is not in a position to host **receptions**.
18. **Marriage preparation** is required for all planning to be married in the Anglican Church. The parish priest can provide recommendations. Couples may also seek assistance from qualified family counsellors or therapists. In addition, some employers offer marriage preparation through their Employee Assistance Programs.

If you have any questions or other special requests which are not included in these guidelines, please call the parish priest. All of us at St. Michael's will do all we can to make your wedding a most memorable and happy occasion.