

Weddings

at St. James Cathedral



**THE Cathedral
Church of St. James**

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Getting Married at St. James Cathedral

Congratulations on your decision to get married! The Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) affirms that marriage is a life-long union of faithful love and fidelity between two persons. In Christian marriage, they publicly declare their intention to fulfil its purposes and exchange vows to be faithful to each other. The following are the basic requirements for marriage in the ACC.

- A minimum of 60 days' notice is expected.
- The wedding will normally be celebrated in the Cathedral.
- At least one of the applicants is a baptized member of the Cathedral, another Anglican parish, or a Christian congregation. If requested, a copy of the certificate must be provided.
- Non-Anglicans should contact the appropriate pastoral authorities of their Christian congregation if marriage in the Anglican Church could have implications for their future involvement in their community.
- Divorced persons need to assure the Cathedral clergy that adequate provision has been made for any under-age children born to the previous marriage.

Scheduling of Weddings

Wedding services may be scheduled from Monday to Saturday. Other than Sundays, there are days during the year on which weddings may not be scheduled. The date and time of the rehearsal and wedding service are discussed at the time of the initial interview with the clergy. Following the initial interview, the couple must sign an application form confirming their acceptance and make a non-refundable deposit.

Officiating Clergy

The Cathedral clergy will officiate at all weddings. Other clergy may assist, or officiate at the invitation and direction of the Cathedral clergy.

Wedding Vows

The wedding vows are found in the authorized liturgies of the Anglican Church of Canada. Any alterations of these vows will be at the discretion of the Vicar or Dean of the Cathedral.

Marriage License

It is the responsibility of the couple to acquire the license from the appropriate civil authorities and to deliver the same to the cathedral office at least one month in advance of the wedding.

Marriage Preparation

All applicants will have preparation conversations with the clergy. In addition, the couple may attend a recognized Marriage Preparation Course.

Church Attendance

All applicants, in preparation for their marriage, are encouraged to attend church worship regularly and participate in the life of the Cathedral or their worshipping community.

Role of Wedding Coordinators

The officiating minister, assisted by Cathedral staff, is responsible for the conduct of the marriage ceremony which is an act of worship. Wedding coordinators are encouraged, at their earliest convenience, to contact the clergy for information about any role that they might be able to fulfil.

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Music

Once the wedding date has been confirmed, the couple will be referred to our Director of Music to discuss the musical selections for the service. The music must be appropriate to Christian worship and in keeping with the musical tradition of the Cathedral. A list of suggested organ music, with samples to hear, will be provided. Couples may discuss other musical options and genres, and guest musicians with the Director.

Parking

Parking is very limited on the Cathedral site. The couple is advised to inform their guests of parking lots located in the vicinity of the cathedral. A map of nearby lots may be found at stjamescathedral.ca/contact. At times, arrival at the Cathedral may be difficult due to traffic congestion, construction, or some other impediment.

Flowers, Unity Candles and Decorations

Any flowers placed on the altar remain there for the Sunday following the wedding. An acknowledgement is made of the donors in the worship bulletin of the day. The use of a unity candle as part of the ceremony is at the discretion of the Cathedral clergy. The use of carpets, glitter, rice, or confetti is not allowed.

Photography & Videography

The ceremony is a service of worship and is intended for everyone to participate free of distractions. The use of cameras (video and conventional) is at the discretion of the clergy. The official photographer and/or videographer should meet with the clergy before the ceremony to ensure a proper and fitting sense of dignity and reverence during the ceremony.

Video personnel are not permitted to move during the service nor use additional lighting.

Physical Arrangements in the Cathedral

The Cathedral sexton and an assistant are responsible for all physical arrangements in the cathedral and will be on duty during the rehearsal and on the wedding day.

Marriage Service Program

Some couples choose to print an Order of Service or wedding program to give to their guests as they enter the Cathedral. This can be produced by the Cathedral office, or the couple can make other arrangements. Whatever the means of production, the officiating minister must approve the content of the program.

Rehearsal

The couple and wedding coordinator, if any, are responsible for the attendance of the bridal party at the rehearsals and to ensure their punctuality. Anyone taking part in the ceremony as a reader is also encouraged to attend. Rehearsals for Saturday weddings will be scheduled during the week before the wedding.

Punctuality

Excluding extenuating circumstances, couples and the bridal party are expected to be on time for the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. A refundable late fee must be deposited with other fees. Where couples are late for the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony, the late fee may be forfeited.