



DECLARATION OF INTENTION

We desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by this Church.

We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nature, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society, and we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make out utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

Christ Church, Oyster Bay

61 East Main Street~Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Parish Office: (516) 922-6377 ~ Fax: (516) 922-0802

E-mail: christchurch.oysterbay@verizon.net ~ Website: www.christchurchobay.org

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Marriage at Christ Church Oyster Bay

Fee	Amount	Payable by:
Organist (if music is desired)	\$200 \$50 Consultation fee \$50 Soloist rehearsal fee	Cash or Check made payable to "Michael Haigler" <i>(put Organist in memo line)</i>
Sexton	\$75	Cash or Check made payable to "Hector Henriquez" <i>(put Sexton in memo line)</i>
Clergy Offering	\$300	Check made payable to "Rector's Discretionary Fund"
Church Offering	\$300	Check made payable to "Christ Church"

TLMEELNE

6 months to One year prior to wedding

Meet with Minister

Reserve Church for ceremony and rehearsal

2 months prior

Contact Music Director if music is desired

4-6 weeks prior

Apply for marriage license

One week prior

Send in or drop off all Church fees and Marriage certificate

At this time you should also make known any other details relating to the conduct of the service.

You should contact the Music Director (extension 13) well in advance of the wedding date, to discuss the music. Extra musicians (voice or instrumental) should be discussed and arranged with the Music Director (at additional cost).

Generally, on the night before the wedding there is a rehearsal for the ceremony in the church. This is an opportunity for the wedding party to review the mechanics involved in the service itself. It lasts not longer than an hour, and involves the entire wedding party “walking through” the wedding service (without music).

If bulletins containing the order of service are desired, the wording and content is subject to approval by the officiating Minister in advance of printing. Unless otherwise arranged, the bulletin is the responsibility of the persons being married, although the parish administrator may have some examples of previous bulletins.

Prior to the wedding, a number of forms must be filed with the Parish Office, namely a Declaration of Intention, a Wedding Information Sheet, and of course, the marriage license along with the fee payment. The Declaration of Intention is read and signed at your first meeting with the Clergy. A copy remains at Christ Church.

The Wedding Information Sheet contains information such as your full names, mailing address and contact phone numbers, names and phone numbers of your florist, photographer and/or videographer, and limousine service. It is required that you inform the Parish Office of the time the florist will be arriving prior to the wedding, to insure that the building is accessible.

Your marriage is a sacred and beautiful celebration, and we will do all we can to make the process as easy and joyful as possible.

**SEE SCHEDULE
FOR WEDDINGS AT CHRIST CHURCH OYSTER BAY**

We ask that the Marriage license and all above fees be in the Office at least one week prior to the rehearsal.

Marriage in Christ Church, Oyster Bay

Many events have taken place within the walls of this sacred space, and weddings are among the most joyous. They bring with them the opportunity for great celebration, and the chance to glimpse the love God has for each of us. In that spirit, we are glad to know that you are interested in having your wedding here at Christ Church. The following short document is designed to answer many of the questions that arise when considering a marriage in Christ Church.

Preparation for Marriage

The first concern of the Church for your wedding is a proper foundation for your happy marriage. A period of pre-marital counseling is required by Church law and provides for a time to reflect on the meaning of marriage and on the quality of your relationship as it develops. This usually means three to six hours of pre-marital counseling with one of the clergy.

Our understanding is that Christian marriage takes place in the context of a community of faith. Regular church attendance is expected of those intending to be married in the parish church. Additionally, the Canons of the Episcopal Church require that a thirty day period of notice be given to the Clergy prior to the marriage date, and that at least one of the two persons to be married must be baptized. Where a marriage involves persons of differing religious backgrounds, a representative of the other denomination is always welcome to participate in the wedding service.

New York State requires a marriage license. Marriage licenses may be obtained from any clerk (village, town, city, etc.). Marriage licenses are valid for sixty days but are not valid for the first twenty-four hours after they are issued. The marriage license must be deposited with the Parish Office not later than the Monday preceding the wedding.

Marriage ceremonies are not generally celebrated during the church's penitential seasons of Lent. Depending on circumstances that vary from year to year, weddings immediately surrounding Christmas may not be possible. Weddings are possible at most hours but not Saturday evenings. Weddings normally occur in the church proper; ceremonies in homes, gardens or reception halls are seldom allowed.

For those who have been married previously

The Episcopal Church permits the marriage of persons whose previous marriage has ended in divorce although no remarriage should be contemplated until a full year

has elapsed from the termination of the previous marriage. A copy of the final divorce decree must be presented to the Minister conducting the marriage or performing the pre-marital counseling. Where there are minor children of that marriage, any documents pertaining to custody and financial support must also be presented. The permission of the Bishop must be sought, and can only be sought in cases where one or both parties to the marriage is/are member(s) of the parish. The petition to the Bishop cannot be filed until a portion of the pre-marital counseling has been accomplished. The Bishop is allowed a period of time in which to respond, which period of time is currently thirty days.

The Wedding Ceremony

A marriage service in the church is first and foremost a service of Christian worship. It holds to the same standards and requirements applied to all public worship. These standards apply to liturgy, music, decoration and conduct of the service in the same manner as they apply to the Sunday Eucharists.

All services are conducted in accordance with the forms set out in the *Book of Common Prayer, 1979*. Couples will be given a copy of the Prayer Book and the marriage rite will be discussed during the pre-marital sessions. While many marriages are solemnized in the context of the holy Eucharist (nuptial mass), there are circumstances where this may not be appropriate and this should be discussed with the person doing the pre-marital counseling.

Music at all weddings is the responsibility of the Minister and the Music Director (who plays for all weddings if able to do so). Generally speaking, musical selections come under the same standards as for all church services. In practice this means that instrumental music is drawn from the repertoire of music written by classical composers for use in the church. Vocal music is not required but when used draws its music from the same sources and its texts from *the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Hymnal 1982*. *The Prayer Book* indicates points in the service where “hymns, psalms or anthems” may be sung. Popular secular music without a religious theme is discouraged (including “Here comes the Bride”, which is actually from Wagner’s opera *Lohengrin*). There is an array of alternatives to choose from, and the organist should be able to kindle your interest in one of these.

Decoration of the church building: Flowers may adorn the altar and the area around the steps near the communion rail (where much of the service takes place). The use of other than freshly cut or growing flowers is not encouraged. Bows may be placed on the pews, hanging freely and not attached by wire or tape. Runners are not used because of the style of flooring material and the placement of the baptismal font. While

we are happy to have birdseed thrown out-of-doors, no small containers thereof may be brought into the building. When used, they must be distributed out-of-doors, after the service. Confetti and rice are not permitted.

Photography and videography: The Vestry (the governing body) of Christ Church has expressed its concern over the conduct of photographers and videographers at wedding services. In order to maintain a suitable atmosphere for Christian worship, photographs are not permitted during the service except from the rear of the building, with available light and with a silent shutter. Video taping during the service must be from a fixed location in the back of the church or in the transept with available light. No wheeled dollies are permitted in the church building. Any audio recording equipment used must be frequency compatible with the permanent system installed in the church building. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to make these rules known.

Fees: The fees are listed at the end of the booklet. If finances are an issue and your wedding, reception and honeymoon are frugal in every way, please feel free to confer with the rector for a modification of fees.

Planning a Marriage in Christ Church, Oyster Bay

After reading the preceding information and agreeing that a Christian marriage is the desire of both parties, the next step is to phone the Parish Office, (516) 922-6377, to make an appointment to meet with the Minister. Only then may a wedding be scheduled.

At that meeting, the Minister and you will get to know each other, and the Minister will discuss the nature of Christian marriage, the preparation tools available, and hopefully, schedule the required premarital counseling. At this time, you will also review the particular details involved in the wedding, such as rehearsal time, flowers, readings, etc.).

At this meeting, or following meetings, you will be asked to choose:

- The readings and/or lessons, and who will read them
- Whether or not you would like Holy Communion
- The music (to be discussed directly with the Music Director)
- The blessing you prefer