

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4:16

The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage At Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

The marriage of two people is a holy union. It begins with your desire to form a lasting, life-long partnership with another in God's love, and continues throughout your lives as a process of intentional living and growing together. In a marriage, each of you as an individual, and together as a couple, gradually transform and mature in God's presence and image. A wedding, then, is a rite of passage, a sacred ritual that celebrates your desire to enter a life-long relationship. By celebrating this union within the context of a faith community, you recognize that God is active in the love you feel for one another, and you place your relationship in God's care.

About Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

At Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral we seek to be a place in which the living God is encountered by all people. The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage takes place within the context of the Cathedral community along with baptisms, confirmations, daily celebrations of the Eucharist and other pastoral offices.

Weddings in the Episcopal Church

A wedding in the Episcopal Church is governed by *The Book of Common Prayer*, Canon Law and the laws of the State. *The Book of Common Prayer* is the foundation for all Episcopal worship services – referred to as liturgies in the Episcopal Church – and provides the liturgical framework by which a wedding is celebrated.

Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral welcomes all to worship here. Weddings are held for members and non-members, although a connection to the Cathedral is preferred, and all weddings are subject to a date's availability. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian.

We will also, on occasion, make the Cathedral available to members of other Kansas City Area Episcopal churches whose guest list requires a larger nave than their home church can provide. There may be compelling pastoral reasons for a wedding at the Cathedral if you are members of an Episcopal Church in another community but wish to be married in Kansas City. Please have your priest contact our staff, we will be happy to talk to them.

Scheduling

Weddings are generally scheduled on Saturdays between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. However, we are open to Friday weddings and smaller weddings held during the week based on calendar availability.

Marriage liturgies are not scheduled during Lent and Holy Week (the six weeks preceding Easter) nor during Advent (the four weeks preceding Christmas) or the Christmas season. Any variation from this policy is at the sole discretion of the Dean. In addition, weddings are not scheduled on any national holiday weekend. Scheduling your wedding date at least one year in advance is advisable. This allows plenty of time to plan your liturgy, complete your series of counseling sessions, meet with the priest who will officiate at your wedding, and become familiar with the Cathedral community. In addition, it increases the chance that your chosen date will be available, given the Cathedral's full schedule of activities.

The Staff and On-site Wedding Host

Distinct from the role of a secular wedding planner, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral's staff and the on-site Wedding Host serve as your primary point of contact throughout your wedding and marriage preparation process. If you choose to engage the services of a secular wedding planner, that person must contact the Cathedral Staff to receive a copy of this manual.

The Cathedral Staff and on-site Wedding Host are responsible for:

- Providing you with resources and answers to your questions, and serving as an ongoing source of information, guidance, and support.
- Facilitating the wedding rehearsal and working with clergy, parish administration, musicians, sextons, altar guild, flower guild and photographers to ensure a smooth-flowing ceremony.
- Maintaining parish records
- Helping you stay on track with respect to the logistics and details of your wedding.

Counseling

While your wedding ceremony itself is very important, the development of a solid foundation for your marriage is of greater significance. Because we want to support your living into your wedding vows in an intentional and faithful way, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral requires pre-marital preparation of all couples.

Topics addressed in pre-marital counseling include:

- The marriage blessing as a sacrament.
- Spirituality and faith formation as a couple
- Your relationship history: present strengths and challenges as a couple.
- Your faith journey as an individual and as a couple.
- Interpersonal communication.
- Family of origin patterns relating to present day belief and relationship dynamics.
- Children.
- Career expectations and role adjustment.
- Finances.
- Conflict resolution.
- Sexuality and intimacy.
- Re-marriage and blending families.

Your pre-marital counseling will be done with the clergyperson who will officiate at your wedding. You can expect to meet with your officiating clergyperson for 3-4 sessions of approximately an hour each.

In Case of a Previous Marriage

Please inform the clergy person with whom you have initial contact whether either of you has been previously married. Your officiating clergyperson will want to make sure that issues that led to the demise of the former marriages have been adequately addressed. Also, you will need to provide a copy of the divorce papers when you meet with your officiant. In cases where there has been more than one divorce, the bishop of the Diocese will need to give consent for a new marriage to be made. In making such decisions, the Bishop will consider:

- The depth of understanding of the individual as to why the previous relationships did not endure,
- The continuing care of and consideration for the former spouse or partner and for any children involved in the relationship, and
- Faithfulness to the dissolution of the previous marriages

Clergy

Cathedral clergy normally officiate at weddings. To balance their schedules effectively, priests are assigned to weddings on a rotating basis. If you would like for non-Cathedral clergy to participate in your wedding, the invitation to do so is issued by the Cathedral clergyperson who will officiate. There are many parts of the service in which guest clergy may participate, however, it is normally the prerogative of the officiant to preach, pronounce the couple married, and to give the nuptial blessing. ***Any honorarium to clergy is not included in the fees.***

Music

The Director of Music at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral will work closely with you as you select your music. Because a wedding is a service of worship, the liturgical guidelines for music are subject to the same standards as music for any other worship service.

The Cathedral's organist plays at all weddings at which organ music is desired. Because of the corporate nature of Cathedral worship services, vocal solos are generally not encouraged. Hymns sung by the entire congregation are appropriate and encouraged. When vocal solos are desired, the Director of Music will make these arrangements and can also share with you a list of approved texts and solos for your liturgy. In addition to the organ, other instruments also may be included. Additional instrumentalists, if desired, are also secured by the Director of Music. Our organists fee is included in our fee schedule however, *fees for additional musicians will be added to your final invoice.*

Please note that only sacred music suitable for worship services may be played in the Cathedral. Music with secular or commercial associations, whether textual or musical, is not appropriate.

Security

The safety of you, your guests and automobiles are important. All events at the Cathedral require an additional security staff. Depending on the size of your wedding one or two security officers may be on duty one hour prior to your wedding. If security is needed for a longer period or more security requested. These fees will be added to your final invoice.

The Wedding Service

The service itself, including Scripture passages. Your wedding will use the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage liturgy found in the **Book of Common Prayer**, pp. 423-432.

Your wedding will begin with a processional. Because this is fundamentally a worship service, it is appropriate for the processional cross to lead the bridal party into the church while the congregation stands.

Readings are taken from Holy Scripture. You may select as few as one reading or as many as three, not including selections from the Psalter which, if chosen, typically intersperse the readings from the Old and New Testaments. You will find a list of recommended passages on p. 426 of the Book of Common Prayer; however, other passages from the Old or New Testaments may be used. Poetry, essays, or other secular works ideally are read at the rehearsal dinner or the reception.

If you elect to have Holy Eucharist celebrated as part of your wedding liturgy, the final reading is always taken from one of the Gospels. It is the prerogative of the deacon or priest to read the Gospel; the remaining lessons

may be read by family members or friends. Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral will provide the texts in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

We prefer that Holy Eucharist be celebrated at your wedding. This first meal together signifies your new life together in Christ, nourished by his Body and Blood. The Cathedral welcomes all who wish to encounter the risen Christ to receive the Sacrament, and an announcement to this effect is normally inserted in your wedding leaflet.

Wedding Program

Samples of wedding programs may be provided upon request and unless special paper or colors are requested would be included in the wedding fees. The Cathedral Clergy have final editorial approval of all wedding programs wither produced by our staff or an outside vendor.

Flowers

Flowers at your wedding should enhance the liturgy. For this reason, flowers are place in the same location as you would find at any other worship service at the Cathedral. Specifically, this means two large arrangements flanking the altar. The Cathedral florist handles all altar flower arrangements if anything different, a special color or flower is wanted, you must contact **Trapp & Co directly at 816-931-6940**, and arrange for payment of additional charges that may apply. Altar flowers used to decorate the Cathedral for your wedding stay in the church for the following Sunday service. **You may choose to have Trapp & Co. provide the bouquets and boutonnieres for your wedding, though this is not required.**

We do not allow the scattering of flower petals in procession as they create both a safety hazard as well as a ventilation and custodial problem.

There are certain Sundays and feast days in the life of the Cathedral in which flowers must conform to Cathedral specifics. Examples include the Harvest altar at Thanksgiving through the following Sunday; the season of Christmas (Christmas Eve through Jan. 6), the Season of Easter through the feast of Pentecost (variable per the date of Easter), Kirkin' o' the Tartan (usually the second Sunday of November), and others. Should you select a wedding date that coincides with one of these dates, the Cathedral selects the flower's color and style. Consult with Cathedral staff for more details.

Candles

Altar candles may be lit for your wedding if your liturgy includes a celebration of the Eucharist. Additional candles, including Unity candles and candelabras, are not a part of Episcopal wedding liturgies and therefore are not used at the Cathedral.

Runners

Aisle runners are not used at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Children in the Wedding Party

We welcome children taking part in Cathedral wedding services. Experience has shown that children do best if they are at least 5 years of age and are well rested prior to the wedding. Younger children certainly may participate; we do, however, recommend that a parent or other responsible adult be seated near the wedding party and that following the procession the child be seated with the adult for the duration of the wedding.

Photography

Photos by Professionals

Professional photography using flash is limited to two hours prior to and one-half hour following the service. Photos may be taken anywhere in the worship spaces and on Cathedral grounds.

Photography of any kind is discouraged during the service, except for the processional and recessional. The photographer must stay behind the pews at all time, so as not to distract from the liturgy. Photos must be taken by available light only, and any special arrangements must be made prior to the rehearsal.

If you plan on having a photographer, please inform the Wedding Host. The appropriate information will be mailed to him or her to ensure he or she understands and is prepared for the regulations surrounding the taking of photos at a Cathedral worship service.

Photos by Guests

Please inform your guests that photography of any kind is not allowed during your wedding liturgy. Please arrange for the following message to appear in your wedding program:

Because our wedding is a holy service of worship and we want you to be fully present with us and to God during this time, we ask that you refrain from taking photos or shooting video during the worship service. Also, please remember to turn off all cell phones and audible pagers. Thank you.

Videography

Videotaping of your wedding is permitted. Special lighting may not be used, and the videographer should remain stationed in the organ loft during the service. You may wish to invite him or her to your rehearsal so he or she may be better prepared on the day of the service. Microphones other than those that are a part of the Cathedral's sound system may not be positioned in the worship space.

Facilities

The Cathedral nave seats up to 600 guests. The Wedding Host will meet with your ushers to ensure that guests are seated in a timely and appropriate way. If your wedding will include Holy Eucharist, the ushers will also signal your guests when they are to approach the altar to receive the Sacrament. If your ushers are not already members of the Cathedral, the on-site Wedding Host will instruct them on this procedure at the rehearsal.

Confetti, rice, birdseed, rose petals, balloons or other such items are not permitted inside the Cathedral nor on the grounds. Bubbles may be used outside the Cathedral as you exit the worship space following your service.

Parking is limited on our campus. We have 100 none staff parking spots (including handicapped) for your wedding party and guests. There is a "pay" lot across the street from the Cathedral on 13th St and some limited street

parking on 14th St and on Washington if you require more parking then we can accommodate. Parking is not permitted in the fire lanes or driveways unless indicated by parking sign.

Absolutely no alcohol is permitted prior to and immediately following the rehearsal or wedding ceremony on the grounds of the Cathedral. If the reception is to take place in Founders' Hall, wine, beer, and champagne can be served in Founders' Hall and courtyard only.

The Rehearsal

The purpose of a rehearsal is to help make you and your party — the people you have honored with an important role in your service — more comfortable with their roles in your liturgy. Attentive participation in the rehearsal helps every person, regardless of his or her role, become more familiar and comfortable with the worship space and the liturgy itself — thereby helping everyone to be more fully present to you and to God on the day of your wedding. Rehearsals customarily take place on the day prior to your wedding and *last 1 hour*. The prompt arrival of you and your party ensures that efficient use can be made of that one-hour time block. The Cathedral's on-site Wedding Host will attend the rehearsal and the wedding service.

The Day of the Service

In addition to the one-hour rehearsal, the standard wedding fee includes use of the Cathedral for a maximum of four hours on the day of your service, including photography. Liturgies without a Eucharist usually take about 40 minutes; liturgies with a Eucharist last about an hour. Weddings customarily must be completed by 6:00 p.m. Because dressing room facilities at the Cathedral are limited, it is recommended that the party arrive dressed and ready for the service. A private room is provided for each and their attendant's.

Fees

Wedding Deposit:	Members	\$300.00
	Non-members	\$500.00

Payment of the non-refundable deposit confirms the date and time of your wedding. It is applied toward your other fees.

Fee for the use of the Church:	Pledging Members	\$1200
	Non-Pledging Members	\$1900
	Non-Members	\$2600

"Member" is defined as someone whose membership at the **Cathedral** is recorded; who attends regularly; and who gives of time and talent to the life and ministry of the Cathedral.

"Pledging" is defined as someone who commits to and carries out a yearly financial contribution to the **Cathedral**. This is confirmed by our Financial Administrator before billing.

Small weddings (total of 20 people or less involved) will have a different fee structure that depends on the time, day involved, and staffing requirements, this will be discussed at the time of your office appointment.

In addition, the following fees may apply and may be added to your invoice:

Security:	\$150-300.00*
Any Additional Musicians:	TBD by what is requested.

At the time the wedding is scheduled, the contact information for the person responsible for paying the fees is obtained. If your rehearsal dinner or reception is held at the Cathedral additional fees and deposits may apply for the additional event spaces.

In the event of a cancellation, the deposit fee will not be refunded. In addition:

For cancellations made prior to final invoicing, a flat fee of \$500.00 will be charged to the bridal couple to compensate Cathedral clergy and staff members who have been involved in the wedding preparations.

For cancellations made after the fees have been paid, a percentage of the fee will be returned. Check with the Cathedral for a schedule of refunds.

Credit cards can only be accepted via our web site and are subject to a 2% surcharge.

*Security is a variable charge that depends on the size and timing of the service.

Please contact Cathedral staff if you have any questions regarding this manual.