

WEDDINGS AT THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER





A Celebration and Blessing



We are delighted that you are considering solemnizing your marriage at the Church of the Redeemer. We welcome the opportunity to help make your wedding ceremony a wonderful and worshipful event for you and your loved ones.

This brochure is designed to give you an overview of how we plan and celebrate weddings at the Church of the Redeemer. If, after you read the information contained in this brochure, you would like to be married here, please contact the church office to make an appointment with our Incumbent to discuss your wedding plans. The phone number for the church office is 416.922.4948. As part of your initial interview we will be able to book your wedding date on our calendar and will confirm who will preside at your marriage ceremony.

We look forward to meeting with you.





A Message from the Incumbent

Welcome

It is my joy to welcome you to the Church of the Redeemer and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we as a church community can help you start your life together as a married couple.

As part of the Church of the Redeemer's commitment to creating a welcoming and nurturing community of faith, we open our church for weddings for members of our gathered community as well as non-members who are seeking a Christian marriage. Your wedding day is a special event in your life and our staff—clergy, musicians, administrative and facility staff—will provide you with the support you need to ensure that this aspect of your wedding day is deeply meaningful for you and the friends and family who gather to celebrate with you as you begin this next chapter of your life together.

In the pages that follow you will find the essential information about how we conduct weddings at the Church of the Redeemer. There is information about the things we require of you and what you can expect of us. As well, there are details about the spaces available both for your ceremony and reception or other functions.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Canon Andrew J Asbil



The Rev'd Canon
Andrew J Asbil,
Incumbent



Preparing for Your Wedding Day

The information that follows will give you an overview of the details that we will assist you in working your way through as you prepare for your wedding day.

At your initial interview, the Incumbent or one of our other clergy will review the legal and canonical (church) requirements for marriage in our church. Confirmation that the date you wish to be married is available and a schedule of meetings to discuss the ceremony's details and spiritual meaning will be provided. In addition,

details about a marriage preparation course we offer, and that couples find beneficial, will be made available.

As your wedding day draws nearer, you will meet with the Director of Music to plan the music for your wedding.

Our Office Administrator will work with you to finalize details of your wedding bulletin and any other administrative details that will help make your wedding day go smoothly.

Our Worship Space and the Neighbourhood



Contributing to the Church of the Redeemer's welcoming atmosphere is its stunning Gothic revival architecture, stained glass windows, and wide nave that provides an intimate setting with comfortable seating and good sightlines for up to 250 guests.

The church's bright and modern lower level includes a variety of spaces that can be used for receptions and changing rooms.

The church's neighbourhood – Bloor Yorkville – boasts several hotels that can accommodate out-of-town wedding guests.

Legal Requirements

Most couples will be married by license since provincial law allows marriage by banns (public church announcements) only if both parties attend church regularly. You can obtain a marriage license from any municipal office in the province. The license is valid for three months from

the date of issue, and you must deliver or send your license to the church office at least one week before your wedding. For information about the marriage license application process in Toronto, visit www.toronto.ca/registry-services/marriage.htm or call 416-392-7036.





Canonical Requirements

In addition to the laws of the province, the solemnization of marriage in an Anglican church is governed by the *canons* or regulations of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Anglican Church of Canada requires a minimum of 30 days notice between the date of application for marriage and the service itself.

Anglican weddings can take place in the church building or in a suitable alternative venue.

All couples are required to undertake an approved program of marriage preparation.

Divorced people seeking remarriage are welcome in the Anglican church.

The Blessing of Same Sex Relationships

At this time clergy in the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Toronto cannot preside at marriage ceremonies for those in same sex relationships. The College of Bishops within our diocese has however recognized that there is a pastoral need within the Church to offer prayers and blessings to

same sex couples in stable long-term committed relationships. We are one of the parishes that has developed an approved response to this need. Please contact the church office to arrange an appointment with our Incumbent to discuss what this can look like for you.

Marriage Preparation Course

We offer a marriage preparation course that meets canonical requirements and equally important, provides you with some essential skills to continue to build a strong and healthy relationship. Held a couple of times each year, all couples who are planning weddings in the coming months are invited to be part of the Friday evening

and Saturday sessions. Discussion, problem-solving, and understanding personality types form the basis of the course that is both informative and fun. Details of the next course will be provided to you by the priest who will be presiding at your ceremony.



The Wedding Ceremony



We use the Book of Alternative Services here at the Church of the Redeemer. The language of the service is contemporary and contains the elements that the Presider is required to include. You will have the option of including the Eucharist as part of your worship service.

Each of our clergy has experience helping to shape the liturgy such that your particular needs are met. Our music director can guide you in decision-making around music for your ceremony.

Music

Music plays an important role in worship at the Church of the Redeemer. Our Casavant three-manual pipe organ, a concert grand piano, the professional singers and instrumentalists who are part of our community are available to add joyful music to your wedding ceremony.

As you plan your ceremony, our Director of Music will be happy

to both suggest appropriate music and receive suggestions.

The Director of Music, in consultation with the clergy, has discretion concerning the selection of appropriate music. The scope of options is very wide with the main criterion being that the music you choose should reflect the fact that the ceremony is a worship service.

Flowers

Altar flowers, for the shelf on which the cross stands, must be arranged through the church's regular florist. The officiating priest will provide you with the contact information. The altar flowers are placed to the glory of God and are a gift to the church, so you may not remove them after the wedding.

If you would like additional floral arrangements, you may use any florist you like. You should discuss the number and location of these arrangements with the officiating priest to ensure they are appropriate. If you desire, you may take these additional flowers with you after the service.





Printed Wedding Bulletin

The officiating priest and our Office Administrator will work with you to create a wedding bulletin that includes the order of service, the words to the readings and hymns, and participant names. This will help your family and friends participate fully in the ceremony.

We have a beautiful standard cover for weddings, but you are also welcome to provide personalized artwork. Printing of the bulletin is handled by the church office if you use our standard format.

Photography and Video

A wedding is a service of worship. The clicking of cameras and whirring of camcorders are a disconcerting distraction—not least to the couple about to be married, so photographs are not permitted during the service. Instead, we welcome wedding parties to come back into the church immediately after the service to pose for photographs. There are certain pho-

tographs that are allowed during the ceremony. The officiating priest will review this with your photographer.

In addition, we do allow the use of a single tripod-mounted video camera if you consult with the officiating priest well in advance of the wedding. The officiating priest will assist the videographer in choosing a discreet location for the camera.

Confetti, Runners and Decorative Additions

Confetti, bird seed, and flower petals are not permitted inside or outside the church building. There are a number of other options that are appropriate ways for your guests to celebrate with you. Speak with the officiating priest about whether what you have in mind will be possible at the Church of the Redeemer.

Please confirm with the officiating priest or the Facilities Manager that the installation of other decorative features in the worship space can be included in your plans for your ceremony. Centre aisle runners cannot be accommodated.





The Rehearsal

One of the scheduled appointments you will have with the officiating priest is the rehearsal for your ceremony.

Generally the rehearsal is scheduled for the Thursday evening prior to your wedding. To ensure that everyone is comfortable in the space and knows what to do and where to stand, it is essential that all members of the wedding party attend the rehearsal.

If family members or friends will be doing one of the readings or leading the prayers of the people, it would be helpful for them to attend the rehearsal as well to become familiar with their role.

The officiating priest or another member of staff will lead the rehearsal.

Bridal Showers, Rehearsal Dinners and Receptions

The lower level of the church is a lovely and convenient space for bridal showers, rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. We can accommodate up to 100 people for a sit-down dinner or 150 for a cocktail-style event. You will need to arrange your own catering. Our Facilities

Manager and office staff will work with you to ensure that your caterer has easy access to the facilities, which include a fully-equipped kitchen. Please call the church office to learn more about the rates for the use of the space.





Your Wedding Day

On your wedding day, a staff person, in addition to the officiating priest and Director of Music, will be on hand to assist you.

The officiating priest will tell you what time the wedding party needs to be present prior to the ceremony and where to meet. In addition any known traffic concerns for the day will be highlighted so that you can arrive on time.

One of our staff will have the board room set up for family to gather in prior to the ceremony if needed. The staff person will also be on hand to assist in the timing of the procession.



Fees and Donations

To avoid confusion, you should place cheques for the amounts for the various fees associated with your wedding in separate, labelled envelopes and give or send them to the church office a minimum of one week before

the wedding. The officiating priest will be able to provide you with further guidance on these fees and donations.

Wedding in the church \$750

Officiating Priest \$300

Director of Music \$250

Singers from the church's choir (optional) *Speak with the Director of Music*

Staff person at a wedding \$65

Altar Guild \$85

Altar Server \$50

Reception (lower level)

Caretaker for a reception

Speak with the Facilities Manager





Glossary of Terms

Officiating Priest

This is the ordained member of staff who will preside at your wedding. Licensed by the province of Ontario and through ordination as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada, the officiating priest ensures the civil and canonical requirements are met and provides the spiritual and pastoral support to the couple seeking to be married in the church.

Presiding Celebrant

Another name for Officiating Priest. Also Presider.

Eucharist

From the Greek word for thanksgiving this is the part of the worship service where we recall Jesus' last supper with his friends. Bread and wine were blessed and shared as Jesus commanded them to "do this in remembrance of me". We celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday at Church of the Redeemer and it is appropriate for you to mark the beginning of your life together in marriage with this sacrament.

Server

This is a lay person who assists the officiating priest in the service.

Prayers of the People

As part of the worship service, prayers are offered for those gathered and for the wider community. A family member or friend can be invited to lead these prayers.

Chancel

The space at the very front of the church where the clergy and server sit.

Banns

If you regularly attend worship services at the Church of the Redeemer it may be possible for you to be married by having your intention to marry *published* by the reading of the Banns rather than using a marriage license issued at city hall. There are some restrictions and the officiating priest will be able to review those with you to determine whether this is an option for you.





Notes

Please use this space to make note of any questions you have for your initial interview.





Church of the Redeemer

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