



WEDDINGS AT CALVARY CHURCH

Summit, New Jersey

Calvary Episcopal Church

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

The Book of Common Prayer commends marriage to be “honored among all people.” It is established by God in creation for the joining together of two persons into a holy, lifelong union in which the two become one. A wedding is filled with joy; it is also an occasion for reverence. The couple, standing before God and the people assembled, pledge their lives to each other. The people proclaim their support. The priest pronounces God’s blessing. “Therefore,” the Prayer Book says, “marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God” (BCP p. 423).

These words from the marriage service in the Book of Common Prayer summarize the Episcopal Church’s teaching on marriage.

- We approach marriage *sacramentally*, believing that God uses the marital relationship as a means for transmitting grace and favor to the married couple.
- We approach marriage *liturgically*, maintaining that the wedding is a service of worship offered to God, not a performance for an audience.
- We approach marriage *theologically* with twin themes of sacrament and liturgy.

The clergy and people of Calvary Church want to make your wedding a joyous and beautiful experience. We hope that it will be filled with a sense of love and reverence, each of which in its deepest sense is a gift from God. The information which follows should be helpful as you plan your wedding at Calvary Church.

What are the requirements for Marriage at Calvary Church?

Because of the seriousness of the marriage commitment, The Episcopal Church requires that a couple be given instruction in the nature of this commitment. Every couple is unique and every relationship is unique; therefore, the length and nature of this premarital instruction may differ with each individual couple. In the course of the instruction, the priest will make some specific requirements, and will also encourage a serious exploration of some of the crucial issues affecting a marital relationship.

Any person who has had a previous marriage terminated by annulment or divorce can be married in the Episcopal Church only under certain conditions and with permission by the Bishop of the Diocese. This should be discussed immediately with the officiating priest who will explain the necessary conditions and procedure.

The marriage must conform to the laws of the State of New Jersey and the canons of the Episcopal Church. The couple must bring their marriage license to the rehearsal.

Application and Scheduling Your Wedding Date

Our Parish Administrator is responsible for scheduling your wedding on the parish calendar after completion of the wedding application. This does not constitute a commitment of the clergy or the parish to perform the ceremony. All requested dates and times are subject to the approval of the Rector. Ultimately, no date is firm until the conclusion of premarital counseling. The date must be confirmed with the Parish Administrator, the Wedding Guild and the Organist-Choirmaster. In the event that the Bishop’s dispensation is required (in the case of divorced persons), the date is not firmly set until the Bishop’s permission is received by the officiating clergy.



Weddings are typically conducted at Calvary Church on Saturdays. Weddings are not conducted during Lent or on other Saturdays that conflict with key programs of the parish. If two weddings are scheduled on one day, the second wedding scheduled must take place no less than three hours prior to or after the first wedding scheduled.

Preparing for your wedding

Premarital Counseling

The Canons of the Episcopal Church require a series of premarital counseling sessions for the engaged couple. Normally, counseling is done here in the parish by the priest who will be officiating the service. Counseling covers the couple's readiness for marriage, the maturity of their relationship, and their suitability for marriage in the Church. Sessions will also cover faith, family dynamics, relationships and financial planning. Premarital counseling considers practical matters such as the choice of music and the style of service, and no decisions about these details should be made before consulting with the minister.

Both members of a couple must be present for counseling sessions. If Summit is an inconvenient location, appropriate counseling can be arranged at The Episcopal Church nearest you but you must coordinate the details with the Rector.

If either member of a couple has been previously married, the Bishop of Newark must be notified at least 90 days prior to the wedding, to give consent to the marriage being contemplated. This requires the recommendation of the rector, after completion of the premarital counseling.

Wedding Guild

A member of the Wedding Guild will be in contact six weeks before the wedding to discuss logistics for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

The Rehearsal and Wedding Ceremony

The rehearsal and wedding at Calvary Church are conducted by the officiating priest. The Holy Eucharist may be part of the wedding ceremony, but it is not required. Whenever the Eucharist is celebrated, all persons present are invited to receive the Sacrament. When a couple would like a minister outside the Calvary staff to participate in the ceremony, this needs to be discussed with the clergy; the visiting minister will be invited by the rector to participate.



A member of Calvary's Wedding Guild will assist the Rector with all wedding details. Professional wedding coordinators are not invited to participate in the rehearsal or the wedding.

The rehearsal is usually scheduled during the late afternoon the day before the wedding, and arrangements are made with the Wedding Guild. Allow one hour for the rehearsal. It is required that all participants, including guest clergy, be present and on time for the rehearsal. The couple is required to bring a valid marriage license to the wedding rehearsal.

On the day of the Ceremony, all participants must arrive **one hour** before the ceremony. Rooms in the Parish House will be provided to the wedding party. **The wedding will begin promptly at the time stated in the application and on the invitation.**

Seating capacity is 700 in the church. Special seating of family members should be planned in advance and communicated to the Wedding Guild before the rehearsal. During the Ceremony, the Wedding Guild will assist in lining up the bridal procession, giving cues when to process, and any other details.

Photography is prohibited other than the professional photographer.

Music

Weddings at Calvary are a service of worship and the music should be appropriate to the solemnity of the occasion. Soon after contracting your date with Calvary Church you should contact the Parish Organist. He will assist you in the selection of music and in contracting additional instrumentalists and/or soloists. He is also expected to be the principal musician for the wedding service. Arrangements for the use of other musicians must be made through him.

Flowers

It is suggested that flowers be provided by a local florist. If flowers are delivered from non-local florists, there is the risk of late deliveries and the possible need for last-minute repairs.

Calvary's Wedding Guild is happy to provide suggestions for local florists that have worked in the church previously. The Altar flowers are the couple's gift to the church, where they are used for Sunday services. After Sunday services, the flowers are taken by the Flower Chapter to those members of the congregation we would like to remember. As with altar flowers for any Sunday or special service, they may be designated in memory or in honor of someone. Please let the Parish Administrator be aware of this request. Flowers used on the altar may not be used at the reception or for any social purpose.



Center Aisle Pew Torches

Calvary provides the candles for the pew torches, however, flower arrangements may be attached below the pew torches. Please discuss this with the Wedding Guild.

Photography and Videography

Photographers are subject to the approval of the Rector and must abide by established church policies. As will be noted in the bulletin, in order to preserve the dignity of the worship ceremony, flash photography is prohibited during the service. Photographers are not allowed beyond the first two pillars to the right and left of the lectern. Following the wedding, photographs may be taken in the church. Please inform your photographer ahead of time of their responsibility to gather the wedding party immediately following the service, so that the desired pictures may be taken.

A single video camera is allowed under the following conditions: it does not involve any additional lighting and the camera is placed on a tripod in a spot designated by the clergy person and remains stationary throughout the service. Cameramen may not trail or precede the couple down the aisle. It is the responsibility of the couple to make certain that photographers and video cam-era operators are aware of and abide by the church's policies.

All cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off.

Wedding Programs

Please contact the Parish Administrator in the church office for a wedding program template with Order of Service. The program must be approved by the officiating clergy before being printed by the church office or an outside vendor. Programs printed in the Church Office will incur an additional fee based on the number printed.

Receiving Line

A receiving line may be formed after the wedding at the back of the church.

Additional Information

- A valid New Jersey Marriage License is required, the service may not take place without it. You may contact the Department of Health, City Hall of Summit, located at 512 Springfield Ave., (908) 277-6464, Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. for information.
- A dressing room for the bride and her party is available in the Parish House. This room must be reserved on the church calendar by the Parish Administrator. For security reasons, valuables should not be left unattended. A friend should be appointed to remove all personal articles from the bride's room.
- "Stretch" limousines may have difficulty negotiating the Woodland Avenue entrance to the Church. As an alternative they may use the entrance off DeForest Avenue.
- The church seats 700 comfortably using the center and side aisles. Smaller weddings may be scheduled for the chancel of the church.
- Aisle runners are not allowed.
- Rice, bird seed and confetti are not to be thrown at or on the wedding couple. This is to insure the safety of the guests leaving the church as well as that of the wedding party.
- The "Unity candle" is not part of the Prayer Book service.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the sanctuary.

In conclusion, we hope this information is helpful to you in making your wedding plans. We wish the best for you in your new life together and pray that God will bless you in all that you do and deepen your love for each other and for God.



Wedding Fee Schedule

The fees shown below cover the honoraria to the Rector’s Discretionary Fund (used to help those in need in the parish and the community), the services of the organist, the sexton, the parish administrator, the wedding guild for candles, bread and wine and the Sacred Space fee.

A \$300 deposit must be paid at the time of booking, and full payment of all fees are due no less than two weeks prior to the rehearsal.

In the schedule below, ‘Members’ are defined as Calvary communicants who worship regularly at Calvary, contribute to stewardship and participate in the life of the Parish. If at least one member of the couple, or the parents of one member, fit this definition, the Member rate applies.

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Total	\$1,350	\$2,650

Additional: \$1 for each order-of-service program, if printed by Calvary.

Rehearsal dinners and post-wedding receptions may also be held at Calvary. Speak with the Parish Administrator if you are interested in learning more about this option.

Checklist for Marriage at Calvary Episcopal Church

IMMEDIATELY

- _____ Confirm date and time with Parish Administrator.
- _____ Provide \$300 deposit, made payable to “Calvary Episcopal Church.”
- _____ Determine officiating Clergy and confirm date and time with him/her.
- _____ Confirm date and time with Parish Organist.

TWO MONTHS BEFORE CEREMONY

- _____ Review information concerning floral arrangements with your florist. Confirm that altar flowers MUST be delivered to the church by 10.30 am
- _____ Review information concerning photography during the ceremony with your photographer and videographer. Confirm that they understand Calvary’s policies.
- _____ Finalize music with Parish Organist.

SIX WEEKS BEFORE CEREMONY

- _____ Meet with the Wedding Guild to discuss rehearsal and wedding details.
- _____ If a wedding program is being used, THE CLERGY MUST REVIEW a draft prior to its printing either by the Parish Administrator or an outside vendor.
- _____ Confirm date and time of rehearsal with Clergy, Organist, and Wedding Guild

TWO WEEKS BEFORE CEREMONY

- _____ Fees for use of the church should be paid weeks prior to the rehearsal and ceremony.

AT REHEARSAL

- _____ Bring marriage license.
- _____ Ask all members of wedding party to arrive on time.

FOR THE WEDDING DAY

- _____ Advise wedding party of times to arrive at church, usually 60 minutes before the ceremony