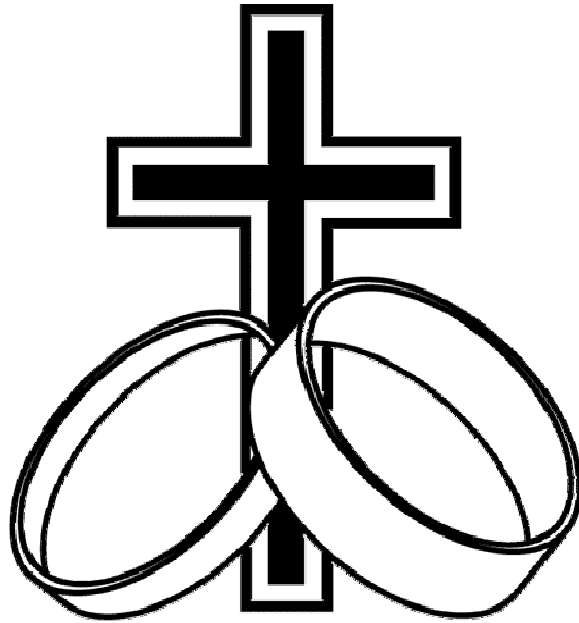


***Holy Trinity Parish
Marriage Guide Book***



***Holy Trinity Parish
P.O. Box 8631
Reston Virginia 20196
(703) 787 9477***

Marriage in CACINA

Marriage is a Sacrament and the rites by which two people enter marriage are, therefore, Sacred. To ensure that all weddings conducted by the clergy of this Diocese are dignified, prayerful, and sacred events, we have prepared this document to help you plan your wedding.

DONATION

Those who are not members of a parish of the Holy Trinity Diocese at the time of marriage are required to make a donation to the church. The recommended donation to the church and the clergy expenses are listed below:

For weddings in Fairfax County, Virginia, Montgomery County, Maryland and Washington, DC, the required donation is \$400.00.

For Loudon, Prince William, and Fauquier counties in Virginia and Prince Georges, Frederick, Saint Mary's and Charles counties in Maryland, the required donation is \$450.00 plus \$50.00 expenses.

All other locations in the Virginia or Maryland the required donation is \$500.00 plus \$65.00 expenses.

Any other location in the Middle Atlantic States the required donation is \$600.00 and actual expenses.

Outside the Middle Atlantic states \$1000.00 plus actual expenses

Your donation can be made using cash, check, VISA, Master Card or Discover. Your wedding date is not secure until the church receives your donation.

Make your donation payable to: **HOLY TRINITY PARISH BISHOPS FUND**
Send to:

Bishop Anthony Santore
12017 Cheviot Drive
Herndon Virginia 20170

OBTAINING MARRIAGE LICENSES

Virginia

There are no residency requirements to obtain a marriage license in Virginia. A couple may go to any Circuit Court in Virginia to obtain a license. Once a license is issued, there is no waiting period and no blood test is required. The marriage license is valid for 60 calendar days and the marriage must take place in Virginia.

The license fee is \$30.00 in cash. Both parties must appear before the Clerk to obtain a license and must be 18 years of age or older (proof of age required with either a valid drivers license with picture, passport or military identification). Between the age of 16 and 18 years, a parent must appear with identification. The court will provide a special affidavit for the parents' signature.

Maryland

Requirements may vary as each county in Maryland has its own requirements. You do not have to be a resident of Maryland. However, you must be married in the county where you have purchased your license. If you are between 18 – 21 years of age, you must provide identification in the form of a drivers license or birth certificate. Only one applicant needs to be present.

Maryland requires that you show your divorce decree or, in cases of a deceased spouse, have information regarding date, county and state of death. Fees vary from county to county \$35 - \$60.00. No blood test is required. There is a waiting period of 48 hours in Maryland from the time you obtain the license until you can be married.

Washington D.C.

The minimum age for marriage in the District of Columbia is 18 years. Proof of age for the applicant's must be shown and may be demonstrated by a driver's license, birth certificate, passport, or similar official documents. The Marriage License Application fee is \$35.00 and the Certificate of Marriage, issued with the license, is \$10.00. The total fee of \$45.00 must be paid by cash or money order (made out to Clerk, D.C. Superior Court) for the application to be accepted.

The Marriage License Application must include social security numbers, addresses, dates of birth for both parties as well as previous marriage information, that is, the city, state, country of each marriage and the ending status of each, such as, by divorce or death. Home and work telephone numbers for both parties also are requested.

The law requires a premarital blood test for syphilis (VDRL) and negative results placed (certified) on a District of Columbia Health Department form, DHS 366, for the license to be issued. The forms for both parties must be submitted at the time of application. This premarital blood test result is only valid for 30 days. In the District of Columbia a physician, clinic, hospital, or military medical facility will often have the forms available to certify the test results.

By law, three full days must pass between the date of application to the date that the license can be issued. The fee payment receipt is required to pick up a license. Marriage licenses are not issued by mail.

Other States

Marriage license laws differ from state to state if you if you are being married out side of the Maryland, Virginia or Washington D.C. jurisdictions following website provides state-by-state guide lines

http://www.usmarriagelaws.com/search/united_states/index.shtml

NOTE

We cannot by law perform a wedding service with out seeing the marriage license; therefore, immediately upon arrival at the wedding site; the clergy will ask the groom to produce the marriage license.

PRE-CANA

Catholic classes for the engaged couple, premarital counseling, also known as pre-cana, is not a requirement; however, premarital counseling is recommended and offered by a qualified professional.

CONVALIDATION OF EXISTING CIVIL MARRIAGES

We welcome the renewal of your marriage commitment in CACINA. If you are already civilly married, and are seeking to renew your marriage commitment in a Catholic setting, it will be necessary for you to provide your Certificate of Marriage

MARRIAGE LOCATIONS

Reston Association's Brown's Chapel is available for small weddings (less than 75 people) after 3:00pm on Saturdays at the cost of \$100.00 for two hours. Otherwise we will perform a wedding service at any dignified location, (Hotel, Bed and Breakfast, Wedding Mansion etc.). We prefer that you locate a wedding chapel or church if you wish to have a Nuptial Mass. A Nuptial Mass can be held outside of a church or chapel and arrangements for this type of service will be arranged on an individual bases.

Marriages on Boats

If you plan a ceremony on a vessel, the ceremony should be performed while the boat is docked, since once the boat is underway, especially in the Potomac River, it is sometimes questionable as to what jurisdiction you are in (Maryland, Virginia or Washington D.C.).

CANCELLATIONS

Should you have to cancel or reschedule your wedding for health reasons or a death in the immediate family or some unforeseeable family emergency, we will try to accommodate your new schedule. If we cannot we will refund your donation.

PUNCTUALITY

We will make every effort to be at your wedding site one half hour before the scheduled start time to ensure that we meet with your photographer and familiarize ourselves with any final details or directions. We ask that your wedding start within fifteen minutes of the scheduled time as we may have a commitment following yours.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs may be taken before, during and after the wedding ceremony. We do ask that the designated photographer respects the sanctity of the occasion and only take photographs during the actual wedding ceremony from a stationary position at the center aisle, behind the first row of seating, or in the rear of the church or service area. The photographer may use flash but it must be on the camera, the use of strobe or slave lights on the altar or in the area of the wedding services is prohibited. Video taping of the ceremony is permissible provided that the camera is stationary. The best location for this purpose is in the front corner of the sanctuary or the area where the service is being performed. Please have your photographer meet with the celebrant before the ceremony starts to discuss any other limitation.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Your wedding is a sacred event; in order to retain the solemnity of we ask that no alcoholic beverages be served to your guest before or during the ceremony. This is to ensure that no alcoholic beverages are consumed during the service. We do suggest, however, that if the event is outdoors in the heat of the summer you do provide water.

MUSIC

Classical and Sacred music (traditional or contemporary) is welcomed during the service and may be live, recorded, instrumental, or vocal. Contemporary secular music is prohibited throughout the ceremony. Often this style of music is inappropriate for a religious setting as it focuses on the physical/sensual /romantic aspects of love.

VESTMENTS

At a wedding service other than a Nuptial Mass, the priest will wear an alb and a white wedding stole. For a wedding service within a Nuptial Mass the priest will wear white wedding vestments, chasuble and stole

READINGS

Readings from the Holy Scripture are included in the Wedding Ceremony. There are traditional readings, but you may select other readings from the bible. Only readings from the bible may be used during the ceremony. One reading from the Old Testament, the

responsorial Psalm, the New Testament, and the Gospels should be included in keeping with the order of the Mass.

We will provide you with the Marriage Booklet, *Together for Life*, that organizes many of the appropriate and suggested readings in the order that they should appear in the Wedding Ceremony. Any person lay or clergy, family or guest may perform the readings from the Old Testament or the New Testament. A Priest or deacon must perform the Gospel reading. Family or guests who are in these Orders are welcome to read the Gospel. Alb and Stole are required of those performing this reading.

PREACHING AND HOMILIES

The celebrant usually does not preach at weddings unless there is a Nuptial Mass. Guests who are in the Orders of deacon or priest, whether active, inactive or who are clergy of other faiths may preach at any wedding desired. Clergy should wear Alb and Stole or ceremonial vesture they customarily wear during weddings in their own ministry.

CUSTOM VOWS AND ALTERNATIVE CEREMONIES

Although using personalized vows is not prohibited, it is recommended that you use the vows described in the Booklet, *Together for Life*. If for any reason you feel you need to customize your ceremony or modify or add to the vows. consult with, and obtain the approval for doing so from, the celebrating clergy and the Diocesan Bishop before the ceremony.

INTER-FAITH CEREMONIES WITH NON-CHRISTIAN CLERGY

Our clergy will gladly concelebrate with clergy of any Christian faith. We will concelebrate with a Jewish Rabbi providing there is a balance maintained between the Christian and Jewish rites. For all other non-Christian faiths we will perform the wedding rites of CACINA separately before or after the non-Christian service.

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

Children in the Wedding Party

Children can make a wedding very special but you must understand that they can become frightened when they see a crowd of unfamiliar faces. We suggest that one parent or close relative of small children in the wedding party remain in the back of the of the hall or church and that the another take a seat near the front so the child sees a familiar face as he or she walked down the aisle. Should the child not want to make the trip, let him or her “sit it out,” since coaxing often brings on tears.

Rings

Wedding rings carried by the best man should be loose in his pockets so that when they are asked for during the service they can be given to the officiate without fumbling with a box or case or bag. Rings carried on a pillow by a ring bearer should be secured to the pillow with a hat pin placed in the pillow over the first ring back in the pillow and over the second ring and back into the pillow. The rings will be secure and not flop around as they can when tied with a ribbon. The ribbon also makes it cumbersome when they are needed for the service.

Aisle Runners

Aisle runners used over a grassy surface have a tendency to billow and cause the bride or any other member of the bridal party to trip. The reason for aisle runners was in ancient times to keep the brides dress clean because the floors of the old churches were dirty. Most facilities today keep things very clean, so you can skip the runner and save money to use on the honeymoon.

Unity Candles

If you plan to use a Unity, you can make it yourself. You can buy everything you need at craft stores such as Michaels or Pier One Imports for a few dollars. A florist often will charge from \$75.00 to \$150.00 for a Unity candle set up.

Tuxedo Rental

If the groom is renting formal wear for the wedding, pay the extra money to have it a day or two ahead of time. Try it on make sure everything fits.

THE WEDDING FORM

The form you just filled out and left with the Priest is all he knows about you and wedding plans if anything changes contact him immediately