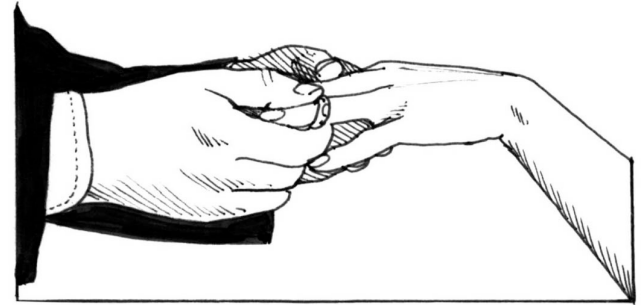


*St. James
Parish Church*



*Marriage
Customary*

Notes

ST JAMES' PARISH CHURCH

A Customary for Marriage

Thank you for choosing St James' Parish Church for the solemnization of your marriage. We, as a parish community, are delighted to help you in preparing for this life-long journey. Preparing for marriage is an exciting and wonderful time in the life of a man and a woman in love. These guidelines are meant to assist you in understanding the theology and purpose of the Order for Celebrating Marriage in the Anglican Church in this Diocese.

Marriage is a sacrament and solemn public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. We believe that marriage is “a symbol of the marriage of Christ with His Church”, and image of God’s covenant with his people and that you, the bride and groom, "mirror" that reflection of love to each other, as well as to all God's people as you live this Sacrament for the rest of your lives. You, the couple, are the ministers of the Sacrament. Marriage is also a church event.

The Setting

St James has a long and honoured history. The first settlers erected a wooden building on the present site about a year after their arrival in 1627. In the early 1690s, a stone structure replaced the wooden building. Then about 1874 the first stone building was replaced by a larger structure. Bishop Mitchinson consecrated this building in 1875. We have a great respect for this history and believe that, as faithful stewards, we are called to maintain it in the best possible way.

Notes

Marriages performed in this church must be in accord with the laws of Barbados and the canons of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, this Diocese and the customary of this parish. Permission to marry may be in the form of licence or through the publishing of banns. Banns may only be published for regular worshippers in accordance with civil law.

Weddings at St James are normally held on Saturday afternoons at 10:00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Special arrangements can be made for weekday weddings.

Requirements

- Pre-nuptial interview with the Rector. This will usually take at least one hour. Kindly make an appointment with the rector for this interview. You need to bring identification cards during this interview.
- Freedom to marry (a decree absolute in the case of divorced persons and approval by the Bishop of Barbados)
- A copy of your Baptismal certificate
- Review the official Church's Rite of Marriage
- Discuss and plan your marriage service/liturgy
- A marriage license from the Ministry of Home Affairs or a certificate of Banns.
- Two witnesses to your marriage.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage

The couple will meet with the Rector a minimum of three times prior to the wedding for counselling and instruction. These sessions should last approximately 90 minutes each and will cover the Scriptural and theological foundations of Christian marriage. The Rector will also help to instruct the couple about the nature and commitment and covenant which exist in marriage and answer any questions the couple might have regarding the wedding itself or married life in general.

- Be present for the rehearsal and should consult the priest **before** the ceremony.

The marriage register will be signed in the sanctuary. Photographs may be taken during this time. Wedding poses may be also done after the rite provided that they cause no delay to other events scheduled for that day.

Confetti

For the safety of all we respectfully ask that **no confetti, rice, or birdseed** be thrown inside or outside the Church. There is danger of people slipping and falling. Furthermore, cleaning up confetti after each wedding becomes burdensome.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Contact Information:

- Rev. Beverley Sealy-Knight 422-4117 (Church)
Rector 422-1044 (Rectory)
- Philip Forde 425-7272
Organist
- Eileen Brathwaite 422-3451
Flower Guild

Appropriate lessons and psalms are provided in the order of service. They should be selected from this list after consultation with the Rector. Variations from these lessons should be discussed with the Rector.

Relatives or friends are welcome as lectors (readers of the Scriptures). Please ensure that they will enhance the ceremony by their ability to proclaim the lessons clearly, meaningfully and effectively.

Music

We believe in leading the marriage rite meaningfully and in a dignified way. Music is an important part of Christian Worship and the marriage rite is no exception. In this connection, we advise that you consult with the Organist and Music Director on all aspects of music for your wedding. If there are particular hymns or songs from the church music books that you would like to request, please let the Organist and Music Director know immediately. If you have your own soloist, the music should be supplied one month prior to the wedding date. The organist does not attend the rehearsal prior to your wedding.

Please contact the Organist, Mr. Philip Forde, at 425- 7272 to arrange a meeting to discuss your musical requirements.

Further, we advise that only Church liturgical music be performed in St James’ Parish Church. This music is offered to the honour and glory of God. We do not allow pop songs and ballads. This should be kept in mind when planning your wedding at St James.

The Rector, by virtue of his office, has final approval of all music played or sung in the Church.

Offering to Church

Thoughtful people consider the special gift to the Church on the occasion of a marriage. Not only do understanding couples want a clean, well-maintained building, they also realize that maintenance costs money as do utilities. There is a fee for the ceremony, which helps meet the cost of maintaining the fabric. When you tentatively book the church for your wedding, there is an 'Agreement Form' to be signed by you and the priest will discuss the donation fee with you as well as our church policy about tentatively booking for church weddings.

A list of Diocesan fees for citizens of Barbados is provided... Fees for overseas residents and visitors will follow the current national practice.

Rehearsal

The Officiant will lead the rehearsal at least two days before the wedding with the entire wedding party.

The wedding should be a happy experience once everyone involved knows what to do. It is important that the Wedding Party **be present and on time for both rehearsal and wedding**. If there is to be a flower girl or ring bearer, they too should be present (children should be at least 5 years old).

The time allotted for the rehearsal is 45 minutes to one-hour maximum inside the Church. The time fixed is normally 5.00 p.m. Please cooperate on this matter.

Flowers

While flowers do serve as a decoration, they are also a symbolic offering. The Altar flowers shall remain in the Church to enhance the future worship of others. If the flowers are needed for the reception, they should not be placed in the Church and then taken away. Please contact Mrs. Eileen Brathwaite, the leader of the Flower Guild, to discuss floral and other decorations in the church. Please arrange with your ushers or

bridesmaids for removal of any runner, pew markers, flower boxes, etc. immediately after the ceremony.

Photographs

Photographers and videographers must be aware of the sacred nature of the ceremony and are asked, therefore, to be respectful of the ceremony and to be as discreet as possible while taking photographs. Keep roaming to a minimum during the course of the ceremony. Too much roaming is not only distracting but also irreverent.

They are further advised not to stand in the aisle during the procession of the bride and should position themselves near the chancel step where the first part of the ceremony is done. When the bride and groom kneel at the altar absolutely no photographs should be taken and photographers should avoid standing in the aisle during this time.

In addition to this we require that Photographers and Videographers:

- be decently dressed
- keep bags and other equipment out of the doorway or any other place in the Church where they present a scene of untidiness
- avoid trying to attract the couples' attention during the ceremony
- avoid tampering with the setting of the church (for example, moving around floral arrangements and church furniture)