

Celebrating
+ Holy Matrimony +
in
St Christopher's Episcopal Church
Boulder City, Nevada, 89005



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
812 Arizona St Boulder City NV 89005-2604
Tel: 702-293-4275 (recording)
www.stchristopherschurch.org

05/16/2008

The meaning of Christian marriage. Christian marriage is a lifelong union of a man and woman in heart, body, and mind. It is celebrated within the community of faith, by mutual consent, and with the intent that it be a lifelong commitment. Marriage is intended by God to be for the mutual joy of the man and woman, for help and comfort in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the bearing and raising of children in the knowledge and love of God. See Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 423.

The ministers of the Marriage. The man and woman are the ministers; they marry one another. The Priest presides and pronounces the Church's blessing on the union the couple has made. The gathered congregation witnesses the vows made by the couple and proclaim their support for the couple in their new commitment to each another.

Who may be married in St. Christopher's Church? Normally only members of the parish or their immediate family are married in the church, others may marry at the discretion of the Priest, and they must comply with all canonical requirements, including pre-marital counseling. (The canons are the ecclesiastical laws that govern the Episcopal Church.) Couples not living in the area must complete pre-marital counseling with their local pastor and send a signed statement to that effect. Marriage in the Church requires that at least one of the persons to be married must be a baptized Christian.

For those family members of parishioners living outside Las Vegas:

To be married at St. Christopher's if you live outside Las Vegas, or the State of Nevada, you must still comply with all the canonical requirements for marriage with a priest where you reside. These include marriage preparation with an Episcopal Priest. If either party has been married before, you must obtain the permission of the Bishop of the diocese in which you are resident at least 30 days before the wedding. The Priest of St. Christopher's must have written confirmation from the priest at your home parish that all requirements have been met. You must also have a Nevada marriage license.



How do I schedule a wedding at St. Christopher's?

Contact the Priest, through the parish office:

702-293-4275 (recording) *or*

admin@stchristopherschurch.org

before you set dates or times for the wedding, rehearsal, or reception. Normally the wedding must be at least 10 weeks from your first contact with the Priest. The canons (ecclesiastical laws) require that the Priest must determine that the couple may be legally married and that at least one party is baptized. Note that weddings are usually not done in the season of Lent or on Sundays. Usually a date may be set for the wedding during the first meeting with the Priest. Weddings are scheduled by the Priest in consultation with the couple, on a "first come, first served" basis. Normally not more than one wedding is scheduled on any day.

Once you have made initial contact with the Priest and have scheduled a meeting, you need to sign the Statement of Intent and to complete the bride and groom information on the forms at the end of this document and bring it to the first meeting.

Special requirements if either party is divorced: If the former spouse is living, you must provide some information about the previous marriage (divorce decree) and obtain the permission of the Diocesan Bishop before an Episcopal Priest can preside at the marriage. The bishop will not approve if either divorced less than one year. The Priest will help you with this process. You may also require additional pre-marital counseling. In these cases, the couple should plan to give at least three months notice.

Pre-marital counseling: The canons require that the couple must be instructed about the nature of Christian marriage, its nature, meaning and purpose. Our pre-marital counseling and instruction requires a minimum of 8 weeks. The content varies somewhat depending on the couple and their particular circumstances, and is determined by the Priest in consultation with the couple. The tool used for this pre-marital (or marital) counseling is *Prepare/Enrich*. See Prepare-Enrich.com. A check for \$35 to Life Innovations covers the cost of the pre-marital counseling inventory.

Can a minister from another church preside? An Episcopal Priest or Bishop, other than a St Christopher's Priest may preside on approval of the Priest. Clergy from outside the Episcopal Church cannot preside at an Episcopal wedding, but they can participate in the service.

Can the Priest decline to preside at a marriage? Yes, the canons of the Episcopal Church and the policies of St. Christopher's Church allow the Priest to decline to preside at a marriage.

Can the couple make up their own marriage vows? No. There are some provisions to "customize" your wedding using "An Order for Marriage" in the *Book of Common Prayer*, but you must choose one of the forms of vows contained in the Rite.

Can a civil marriage be blessed in the Church? Yes, there is a form in the *Book of Common Prayer* for the blessing of a civil marriage. This service must be scheduled and meet the same conditions as a marriage.

Who plans the service? The Priest, in consultation with the couple, plans the service using the *Book of Common Prayer*. Couples should review BCP pp. 422–437 before their first appointment with the Priest.

Should the service include Holy Communion? Holy Communion is not required at a wedding, but it is encouraged because it symbolizes Christ's self-giving love towards all human beings.

What about music? Music is planned in consultation with the Priest. St. Christopher's Church has an organ and a piano for use during the service. If other instrumental music or a soloist is desired, the Priest must approve it. The couple is responsible for obtaining and compensating musicians. All musical texts must be approved by the priest.

When should we get the Marriage License? The license should be applied for at the county clerk's office in the State of Nevada, in the county in which one of the parties resides. The marriage license must be brought to the rehearsal. The wedding will not take place without a valid license.

Can an outside consultant be used? No, not for the service itself. The Priest and Altar Guild Director provide these services.

What about Church decorations? Only simple decorations and flowers are the flowers placed in vase behind the altar. Simple aisle decorations may be used, with permission of the Priest. Priest must pre-approve your plan for decorations and flowers.

The Altar Guild prepares the church before the wedding. Cleanup is the couple's responsibility. St. Christopher's has no cleaning staff. Therefore, throwing of CONFETTI, or PETALS or RICE is not allowed. Birdseed may be used outside.

What about service bulletins? Service bulletins are not required, but may be useful for souvenirs and to help the guests follow the service. The Priest can assist in preparing bulletins. However, the couple must prepare and print the bulletins. The final proof copy must be approved by the Priest before printing.

What about photographs of the wedding? Flash photographs may not be taken during the service, nor may a photographer move around in the nave or chancel during the service. A stationary video camera in the nave may be used. Arrangements may be made for the Priest and wedding participants to pose for photographs before or after the ceremony.

You should discuss with the Priest what kind of photography (still and/or video) and plan for the particular scenes or settings they wish to have photographed and give the photographer specific instructions.

You might want to consider taking the "posed" photographs before the wedding. This allows for the wedding party to immediately be available to greet guests and attend the reception. It also places

a limit on the length of the photography session. Photo sessions in the church after the service are limited to 30 minutes, as a courtesy to the waiting guests and the Altar Guild. The photographer is expected to attend the rehearsal.

What fees are charged for a wedding?

Fee Schedule

Pre-marital counseling inventory	\$35
Church Use	Donation
Parish Hall for Reception	Donation
Altar Guild Services	Donation
Musician	<i>Payable to the musician--usually runs \$100 – 150.</i>
Clergy	Any payments to clergy go into discretionary fund used for the poor.

How do we arrange for a reception in the Parish Hall?

Parishioners or friends of parishioners may have receptions in the parish hall. Because of liability and because we have no staff, a responsible parishioner with a key must be on site at all times to oversee cleanup and to lock up.



Contact the Parish Office (recording) to reserve the parish hall. Note that all decorations must be taken down before 7 am on Sunday morning. Clean-up inside and outside is the couple's responsibility, as St. Christopher's does not have a cleaning staff.

If there is a reception at the church, may alcoholic beverages be served? Yes, but they must be served with discretion and non-alcoholic beverages must also be provided. Intoxication is not appropriate and serving of alcohol must comply with the guidelines of the Diocese of Nevada and the laws of the State of Nevada.

Are members of the clergy or others who assist with the wedding automatically invited to the reception? No. The wedding is a public service of worship. However, the reception is considered a private party, by invitation only. If you wish to invite the priest, musician, servers, or others, you should send them an invitation.

What about a rehearsal? Wedding rehearsal is normally the day before the wedding. All participants, organist, readers, ushers, photographer (if possible,) and all the wedding party, are expected to attend the rehearsal. The rehearsal should be scheduled with the Priest to occur prior to any rehearsal dinner or party.

On the day of the Wedding. The bridegroom and best man should arrive at least **30 minutes** before the service starts. There are facilities for the bride and her attendants to dress and they should take the preparation time into account when determining arrival time at the church. Usually **one hour** before the service start is sufficient time.

Other questions? Ask the Priest.

A list of reminders

Date and time of Wedding: _____

Date and time of Rehearsal: _____

Meetings with the Priest (allow approx. two hours)

1st _____	5th _____
2nd _____	6th _____
3rd _____	7th _____
4th _____	

Consultation with Altar Guild: _____

Florist: _____

Meeting with the Organist: _____

Readings for the service:

Old Testament: _____

Psalm: _____

New Testament Epistle: _____

New Testament Gospel: _____

Readers for lessons (Priest/Deacon reads the Gospel)

_OT: _____

_ Psalm: _____

_ Epistle: _____

Marriage License obtained: _____

Other: _____

Contacts:

St. Christopher's Parish Office
812 Arizona St Boulder City NV 89005-2604
Tel: 702-293-4275 (recording)
www.stchristopherschurch.org

The Rev. Sandra McCarroll, Priest
The Rev. Curt Edmonds, Priest
For Altar Guild contact the parish office.



Marriage Information Form

Groom's full name:

_____ (First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____

Street Address:

_____ City/State/Zip:

_____ Email: _____

Is this your first marriage? _____

Are you Baptized? _____

In what church? _____

Are you Confirmed? _____

In what church? _____

Parents:

Father's Name _____

City and State of Residence:

_____ Mother's Name _____

City and State of Residence:

Bride's full name:

_____ (First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth: _____ Home Phone: _____

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email:

Is this your first marriage? _____

Are you Baptized? _____

In what church? _____

Are you Confirmed? _____

In what church? _____

Parents:

Father's name _____

City and State of Residence:

Mother's name _____

City and State of Residence:

The couple must sign the following Statement of Intent that they understand and agree to the Church's understanding of Christian marriage.

We, _____ date _____

and _____ date _____

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a life-long union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by this Church. We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society. And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.