



## **ST. MARGARET IN-THE-PINES**

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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**OFF-SITE WEDDINGS**

## OFF-SITE WEDDINGS

We are delighted that you are interested in being married by the clergy at St. Margaret in-the-Pines. St. Margaret's has a long history of helping couples build strong, successful marriages. Our concern in all of the above is your welfare and life together in Christ. You are embarking on a great adventure and full of promise. We wish you well in all your plans and pledge our prayers for you both. If you are not presently attending any church, we invite you to start worshipping with us!

This material will help you if you are considering planning your off-site wedding by the clergy at St. Margaret in-the-Pines. If you haven't already done so, please contact the church office, 416-284-4121 or [stmargaret@bellnet.ca](mailto:stmargaret@bellnet.ca). A member of the clergy will call you at this point to advise you of the next steps and confirm your requested wedding date.

### CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Christian marriage is a holy and public covenant in the presence of God. In the Anglican Church, it is required that one, at least, of the parties be baptized in the Christian faith. If neither of you is baptized, a course of preparation for baptism can occur with enough preparation time.

### PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

The church requires that each couple prepare for marriage. There are many things to think about in preparing for marriage: family backgrounds, roles and expectations, finances, communication, conflict resolution, sexuality, spirituality, in-laws, children and more. There is also a need to think through and plan the service itself. This will involve a minimum of three one-hour counseling sessions with one of the clergy as well as participation in an upcoming pre-marriage course. We recommend the program offered by The Rev'd Brian Murray of Humancare. He can be reached at: 905-841-3173 or see the website at: [www.marriageprep.com](http://www.marriageprep.com).

### MARRIAGE LICENCES

A marriage licence must be obtained. These are issued at any municipal office. Please note the licence is valid for three months from the date of issue but there is a waiting period of three full days between the date of issue and the date of the wedding. Please bring your marriage licence to the clergy at the final preparation meeting before the wedding. Please note: under no circumstances may a wedding be performed by a Priest in any Anglican Church in the Diocese of Toronto within 60 days of the first request.

### REHEARSAL

A rehearsal generally takes place on the evening before the wedding. All members of the wedding party meet with the officiating clergy.

### THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA GENERAL SYNOD CANON DEALING WITH MARRIAGES STATES THAT:

- a) Marriage is a public act and should be solemnized in the face of the community and of friends and neighbours of the couple.

- b) Every marriage shall be solemnized in the presence of at least two witnesses in addition to the officiating minister.
- c) The body of the church is the appropriate place for the solemnization of a marriage but a marriage may be solemnized in another location if the clergy, after consultation with the Bishop, is satisfied that the solemnity and public nature of the occasion will be preserved and that the service will be conducted with dignity in godly and decent order.

**AS SUCH THE GUIDELINES FOR THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO CONCERNING THE LOCATION A MARRIAGE IS SOLEMNIZED REQUIRE THAT:**

1. The decision about where the marriage takes place is now made by the clergy after consultation with the Bishop.
2. The presiding minister should be in charge of ALL ASPECTS of the service (including appropriate photography and videography).
3. The service should be held in a place separate from the reception and before the reception begins.
4. It should be clear to those in attendance that the ceremony is a celebration of Christian marriage as if done in a church. Appropriate Scripture passages should be chosen to reflect this.
5. One of the authorized liturgies of the Anglican Church of Canada must be used.
6. The couple must ensure that copies of the liturgy or at least the people’s parts are made available to allow the participation of those attending.
7. The service will begin promptly at the agreed upon time.
8. Clergy should vest.

**THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE**

An Anglican wedding service must conform to either the Book of Common Prayer or the Book of Alternative Services. As a wedding service is a service of worship only music expressing Christian faith can be used.

**MUSIC**

Music is to be in keeping with Christian worship. If you wish, it is appropriate to sing a hymn during the ceremony. Common Praise, the hymn book of the Anglican Church of Canada, offers three that are especially suited to weddings: Hymns 287, 288 and 289.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Old Testament and New Testament Readings:

- Genesis 1.27–28,31a (God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them)
- Tobit 8.5b–8 (Not . . . because of lust, but with sincerity)
- Romans 12.1–2,9–13 (Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good)
- 1 Corinthians 13 (So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love)
- Ephesians 3.14–19 (To comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ)

Colossians 3.12–17 (Put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony)  
1 John 4.7–12 (If we love one another, God abides in us)

Psalms and Suitable Refrains:

67 (May God be merciful to us and bless us)  
112.1–6 (Happy are they who fear the Lord *or* Hallelujah!)  
148.1–6 (Hallelujah!)  
150 (Hallelujah!)

Gospel Readings:

Matthew 5.1–10 (Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied)  
Matthew 22.35–40 (You shall love the Lord your God . . . You shall love your neighbour as yourself)  
Mark 10.6–9 (The two shall become one flesh)  
John 2.1–11 (On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee)  
John 15.9–12 (This is my commandment, that you love one another)

**VIDEOS AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

Videos are permitted as long as it is unobtrusive and does not interrupt the solemnity of the service. It is helpful you discuss this when making arrangements with your photographer and he/she meet with the Presiding Celebrant (Clergy) 15 minutes before the service to discuss this policy.

**FEEs**

Please bring the various fees to the wedding rehearsal in separate envelopes.

Church: \$500 donation (minimum)  
Clergy: \$400.00 (including \$50 travel)

We agree to the above guidelines and will adhere to them in the planning of our wedding service.

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BRIDE

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GROOM

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INCUMBENT

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DATE