



YOUR WEDDING at the CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Anglican Parish of Colwood & Langford

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*Faith, hope, and love
abide, these three; and
the greatest of these is
love.*

St. Paul to the Church at Corinth

Congratulations on deciding to have the celebration of your wedding at Church of the Advent. We hope that the information in this pamphlet will be useful as you make plans for your special day. The Church, as **your partner in wedding planning**, wants to do its part in giving you the best start in marriage.

Marriage is one of the most challenging decisions that two people make with each other. Marriage is a way of life which **deserves the best preparation** so that it may become the rewarding and growing experience it is intended to be.

Having your wedding held in a church suggests that you want it to be special, and that you want your relationship **blessed by God**. In meetings with the presiding priest you will look at ways to design your wedding so that it is special, and so that you will have a sense of

beginning your marriage with God's blessing.

The Church of the Advent is part of the **Anglican Church of Canada**. The Anglican Church requires that you inform the Rector of your wish to be married in the church **at least 60 days before the preferred date of your wedding**. This is probably the minimum time you need to plan and become comfortable with how you want your wedding service. **Many couples contact this church six or more months before their planned wedding**, and this seems to work well.

All couples who get married in an Anglican Church receive some marriage preparation. This is not to suggest that you are unprepared for marriage! **In Victoria, the Anglican Church holds several weekend workshops** (Friday evening plus all day Saturday) for engaged couples. **You will be asked to attend one of these weekends.**

In some circumstances alternative preparation can be found in your home community. This however is the exception rather than the rule. Such preparation will probably be the only time you get to meet informally with other engaged couples and review various aspects of marriage. Most couples find that the weekend is enjoyable, and **confirms their strengths as a couple.**

After the formal preparation you will meet with the presiding minister to work out **the details of your wedding service.** This will include participation of friends or family, decorations, music, choice of liturgy and so forth.

The day before your wedding, the presiding minister will schedule a **dress rehearsal**, attended by your wedding party, and everyone who will be helping with parts of the service. This helps all concerned feel welcome, familiar with the design of the service, and more at

ease in this building. **Your photographer, and anyone videotaping your wedding, is advised to confirm plans with the presiding minister at the rehearsal.**

The Marriage Service used by this Anglican Church takes for granted that one or both of you is involved in the life and worship of the church, and has a basic understanding of the Christian faith. If this is true of you, will find much in the service which is already familiar.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN A CHURCH then you will need to allow yourselves time to understand the basis for our style of Marriage service. In such cases we ask you to attend the 10:00am Sunday services, get to know some of the people here, and gain some understanding of how the Church of the Advent functions as a community.

PREVIOUSLY MARRIED PERSONS are welcome to have their wedding celebrated at **Church of the Advent.** The presiding minister will meet with you to better understand the details of your former marriage, and will help **encourage you in making this new marriage a new beginning.** The Rector is required to ask permission of our Bishop before he can confirm your wedding plans. This is not a long process, and there are no fees involved in making application to our Bishop.

The **normal honorariums** as of January 2006, are as follows:

Priest	\$175
Organist	\$125
Janitor	\$35
Registrar	\$25

The Church of the Advent family are pleased that you will be having your wedding here. You will be prayed for on a regular basis. We look forward to encouraging and welcoming you as we get better acquainted.