



## WEDDING PACKET

The Reverend Alison Lee, Interim Rector, and the congregation of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, (Epiphany) are pleased you are considering having your wedding with us and extend a warm welcome to you!

Those who desire the blessing of God on their marriage choose a religious ceremony because they want the Christian faith to be part of their married life. If this is your desire, you will find an Episcopal wedding meaningful, and Epiphany's beautiful worship space well-suited for a wedding service based on our Book of Common Prayer.

Weddings are performed by an Episcopal priest from Epiphany, or, by special arrangement, an Episcopal priest of the Diocese of Arizona may also perform your ceremony. If you would like another member of the clergy to participate, you will need to discuss the possibility with the Rector during your premarital counseling sessions.

The following are the criteria for an Episcopal Church wedding:

- ❖ At least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian. Epiphany prefers at least one of the couple also be an Episcopalian.
- ❖ The couple must obtain a marriage license in accordance with the laws of the State of Arizona. Two witnesses who are 18 years of age or older must be witnesses at the ceremony and sign the license. The couple is expected to bring their license to the celebrating priest one month prior to the service.
- ❖ If either of the couple have been married previously and divorced, permission to remarry must be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona; generally, the divorce decree must be final for one (1) year.
- ❖ Couples wishing to be married in the Episcopal Church need to complete pre-marriage counseling with an Episcopal priest.

## THE FIRST STEPS

It is a good idea to begin planning your wedding at least six months ahead of your anticipated wedding date. This will allow ample time for you to complete your premarital counseling, make your choices regarding the service and music, and arrange the wedding details.

- ❖ Contact Epiphany at [office@epiphanyaz.org](mailto:office@epiphanyaz.org) or (928-774-2911) for calendar availability.

- ❖ Weddings are held during most of the year except during the season of Lent. At Epiphany, weddings are generally scheduled depending on your circumstances and the Church's availability.
- ❖ Complete the attached Wedding Application.
- ❖ Submit the completed application with a deposit of \$500 in a check or money order made payable to The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in your initial meeting with the Rector.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The wedding service allows for witnesses (best person and person of honor), attendants for the couple, and ushers. In addition, the father, parents, or others may “give the bride” away. Family or friends may participate by reading the Scripture lessons or offering prayers.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

The rehearsal is an opportunity to review and practice the logistics involved in the marriage service. It is an important time allowing you to ask questions and go through the actual service so you will feel comfortable at the details of the wedding.

- ❖ All members of your wedding party should attend, including any family or friends who are participating in the service.
- ❖ Generally, the organist and any other musicians do not attend the rehearsal.
- ❖ Alcoholic beverages on church grounds are not appropriate, except as planned for in the reception.

## **WHAT IS A MARRIAGE?**

- ❖ **Marriage is a Sacrament.** The classic definition of sacraments is that they are “outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace.” In other words, a sacrament is something we can see or say or do, like exchanging rings or making promises to express an experience of faith or love or spiritual blessing which goes deeper than words or actions can express. Marriage is an especially powerful sacrament because, in it, we experience a depth of intimacy and union with another person that is both spiritual and sacred. Bonded by love and encouraged by faith, both individuals find their lives enriched and shaped in ways that would never happen for either of them as a single individual. Because of this potential and experience in marriage, the Church sees it as a sign and reminder of the great love of God for humanity.
- ❖ **Marriage is a vocation.** A vocation is a calling, particularly from God, and the awareness that marriage is a calling from God heightens the sense of the importance and also the dignity of the relationship you are about to enter. Being a partner is a ministry, just like being a priest or a monk or nun is a ministry. Your calling is to build a community of love, and to live together in that community as a sign to others of the love and faith that God has for his people.

- ❖ **Marriage is a promise.** One of the words of the wedding service is “covenant.” A covenant is similar to a contract, but it has more to do with making a promise to stay in relationship with one another than it has to do with setting out specific obligations or expectations. God has shown his love for humanity by making covenants with people, covenants in which God promises to continue in love and care for his people and his creation. The covenant you will make is the promise to stay in this special community with each other for as long as you both live. The promises of marriage acknowledge that life is not always happy or easy. Taking each other “for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health” expects there may be times of poverty, sickness or just plain “worse” times in which you will let each other down. But marriage is about enduring those times for the sake of the good that comes from keeping the promise and from growing in love and faith through those occasions.
  
- ❖ **Marriage is a learned behavior.** In other words, marriage is not something that we know how to do naturally or instinctively, but it is something we must learn to do and live. Most of what we know about marriage we learned from our parents, and they will remain our most important role models for marriage (for good or ill). However, we can always learn, unlearn, or relearn ways of living in marriage that are positive, helpful and healthy. Part of the reason we emphasize marriage preparation is that there are skills and values that contribute to a good marriage, and these can be learned.
  
- ❖ **Marriage is a public affair.** One of the misconceptions about marriage is that it is **couple** alone. Other people will continue to affect your feelings and thoughts toward each other, and other people can also be a valuable resource to you in strengthening and enriching our relationship with each other. It is important to work together to build healthy and appropriate relationships with family members and friends you each bring into this relationship. It can be tragic when a couple regards their relationship as something so private that they refuse to seek help from others until so much hurt or disappointment has taken place that reconciliation becomes difficult or impossible. Remembering that marriage is something you can learn about may help you rely on the input and support of others when your relationship hits the inevitably rocky spots.

It is a blessing, and honor that we are with you as you begin this phase of your adventure, witnessing in community with you this act of love and commitment that you will make to each other.

## THE WEDDING SERVICE – THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

The service includes:

- ❖ The Welcome and Introduction
- ❖ Declaration of consent by the couple
- ❖ The Ministry of the Word: Reading options from the Old and New Testaments from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible
- ❖ Homily\*
- ❖ The Marriage: Marriage vows
- ❖ The Prayers

- ❖ The Blessing of the Marriage
- ❖ The Peace\*
- ❖ Holy Communion\*

\* These elements are optional, with discussion between the couple and the priest. Music is optional, but welcomed, within the sacramental guidelines.

Epiphany has limited space for the bridal party to dress for the ceremony. Separate areas for the couple and their attendants can be arranged although the rooms will be small. It is recommended that only touch-ups to attire, make-up, boutonnieres, bouquets and the like be done once the bridal party arrives at the church.

## **MUSIC**

It is suggested that the couple meet with Epiphany's Organist, Charly Spining, to discuss hymn and music options. The Rector has final approval of all music offered at Epiphany. The Wedding Packet lists services included as well as optional services of our organist, soloists(s), choir, or additional instrumentalist(s) at additional cost. If the selection of music is not appropriate for the wedding ceremony, you may opt to use it at the reception.

## **FLOWERS and DECORATIONS**

We are blessed that Epiphany's architecture, stained glass and other features make the space beautiful for such important sacramental moments, drawing our attention to the importance of the commitment that is being made by the couple to each other, in the presence of God. Decorations are limited to the altar flowers and any personal flowers, such as the bride's bouquet, boutonnieres, corsages, etc. Aisle runners are not allowed.

Candles are used at the altar. In addition, pew torches down the center aisle are available for a separate charge. Beyond this, additional candles are discouraged. A "unity candle" does not fit into the Episcopal Church's wedding liturgy for both practical and theological reasons. Questions about additional candles should be addressed to the Rector.

Epiphany's Altar Flower Coordinator will work with you on the colors, types of flowers and greens for the flower arrangement(s) to be placed in the altar area, and will also coordinate with the wedding party bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, etc.

To ensure the safety of all, no rice, bird seed, flowers, or other objects may be thrown on Epiphany's church grounds. If bubbles or other items are used, the wedding party is responsible for cleaning up the grounds of all debris.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

The wedding party should arrive at least 90 minutes prior to the scheduled service time. If the wedding party wishes to have photographs taken before the wedding, or after, the photographer can help determine the amount of time necessary for pre- or post-wedding photos.

Photographers and videographers are required to limit their movements in Epiphany to prevent distracting you guests during the wedding ceremony. Flash photos of arriving guests, ushers, attendants, the couple may be taken before the service, either outdoors or in Parish Hall. Flash photos of the wedding party inside Epiphany are limited to the beginning of the wedding party procession and the retiring procession and are to be taken from the Narthex doors at the Beaver Street entrance.

No flash photography is allowed during the course of the service. Time exposures and videotape using only natural light may be taken from a stationary position at the back of the church. Still photographs of the bridal party and family may be taken either before or after the wedding. The Priest or other officiants will be pleased to recreate any special photographic moments you wish to capture.



## WEDDING FEES

Church Fee (Includes a non-refundable deposit of \$500)

❖ Member of Epiphany	\$750
❖ Family of an Epiphany Member	\$1,000
❖ Member, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona	\$1,200
❖ Non-affiliated	\$1,500

The above fees include:

- ❖ Wedding Planning Packet
- ❖ Use of Epiphany for Rehearsal and Ceremony
- ❖ Priest's honorarium
- ❖ Service bulletin
- ❖ Facility Cleaning Fee

Optional fees include the following:

❖ Organist	\$200
❖ Soloist	\$150
❖ Choir	\$1,000
❖ Instrumentalists	Union Scale

Facility Fee for Rehearsal Dinner or Wedding Reception

❖ Parish Hall	\$250
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It is recommended that you hire a caterer to service your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception needs. The following are acceptable caterers for use in Epiphany Parish Hall. All caterers are subject to the Rector's approval.

- ❖ Josephine's - 928-779-3400
- ❖ Main Street – 928-851-4293
- ❖ Thornagers – 928-774-8583

# The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

## APPLICATION FOR EPISCOPAL CONSENT TO OFFICIATE AT A REMARRIAGE

Please complete both pages of this application. Answer questions on the second page completely.

### Application submitted by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### To the Bishop of Arizona:

I apply to solemnize the marriage of:

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Single

Divorced

Number of previous marriages \_\_\_\_\_

Single

Divorced

Number of previous marriages \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed date of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### From the Bishop of Arizona

This signature indicates my permission for you to solemnize the marriage of the above-named couple, given that all diocesan guidelines have been met.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall  
Sixth Bishop of Arizona

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this completed form to:

The Office of the Bishop  
Attn.: Cathy Black  
114 W Roosevelt St  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
Or  
cathy@azdiocese.org

1. I have met in person with both parties and they are engaged in a program of pre-marital counseling satisfactory to me, or they have done so with another Episcopal priest satisfactory to me.

Yes No

2. I have personally examined the final decree(s) of divorce or annulment and I certify that on the basis of my examination, the prior marriage(s) is (are) lawfully dissolved.

Yes No

3. I have thoroughly discussed each party's personal readiness for marriage with them (or such discussion has occurred in a counseling program satisfactory to me).

Yes No

4. I believe each has realistically faced and evaluated the cause(s) of the ending of the previous marriage(s).

Yes No

5. I am satisfied that each party has an adequate continuing concern for the previous spouse(s) and any children.

Yes No

6. I am willing to solemnize the marriage, if consent is granted.

Yes No

7. If either or both parties have been divorced more than once, please attach a brief statement from the couple identifying why this marriage will be different and lifelong.

8. This ceremony will take place in the Diocese of Arizona, or I have received written permission from the bishop of the diocese in which I have been asked to officiate.

Yes No

9. Canonical requirements of The Episcopal Church have been met, and I have discussed these requirements with both parties.

Yes No



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY WEDDING APPLICATION

Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

DoB: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Church status or religious background:

\_\_\_\_\_

Church address & phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name (include birth name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Single  Divorced

Widowed

This wedding is my:

First  Second  Third  \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized:  Yes  No

If YES, in what denomination:

\_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed:  Yes  No

If YES, in what denomination?

\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

DoB: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Church status or religious background:

\_\_\_\_\_

Church address & phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name (include birth name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status:  Single  Divorced

Widowed

This wedding is my:

First  Second  Third  \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized:  Yes  No

If YES, in what denomination:

\_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed:  Yes  No

If YES, in what denomination?

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany Wedding Agreement

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

understand and agree that by submitting a Wedding Application form, and a \$500.00 non-refundable deposit check to The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany) located at 423 North Beaver Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, we reserve the following date(s) and time(s):

Wedding Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Communion:  Yes Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_  No

Reception held at Epiphany:  Yes Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_  No

Rehearsal Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Dinner at Epiphany:  Yes Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_  No

We understand that acceptance of the deposit does not guarantee a wedding will take place at Epiphany unless all canonical requirements are met, including but not limited to:

- Pre-marital counselling with the couple, the priest, and possible a referral to a counsellor, in the manner prescribed by the priest
- Consent of the priest
- Where applicable, permission to re-marry obtained from the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona
- The staff of Epiphany reserves the right to cancel a scheduled wedding if the marriage license and payment of the balance due are not received **by the stipulated date of two weeks prior to the ceremony.**

Furthermore, we have reviewed the Wedding Policy of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany and we understand its contents. We agree to abide by the requirements and restrictions outlined but not limited to, below:

- Clergy of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany will perform the wedding. If other clergy are requested to participate, permission must be obtained from the Rector of Epiphany.
- The wedding rehearsal will begin on time. The rehearsal may be cancelled at the discretion of the celebrant if participants are late, or if participants are not respectful of the sacred nature of The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, and of the wedding service.
- Outside of the flower arrangements provided by the florist, and any worn or carried by the wedding party, not other decorations will be used.

# The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany Wedding Agreement

- Wedding music and musicians are subject to review/audition, and approval by the organist and/or Music Director of Epiphany. As a wedding is a sacrament of the Church, secular songs are reserved for the reception.
- Photography during the wedding is limited to the entrance and exit of the wedding party. Still photographs taken before and/or after the service are permitted.
- Videotaping of the service, without light enhancement, may occur only from a stationary position approved by Epiphany. The service is not to be disrupted by flash photography, or videography.
- No flower petals, rice, bird seed, or other materials, natural or synthetic, may be thrown or strewn at Epiphany, either indoors or outside.
- Any persons in the wedding party who arrive intoxicated, or high, may be asked to not participate in the wedding. The wedding will be cancelled if either one of the wedding couple appear to be inebriated or stoned. Upon approval from the Priest, alcohol may be served at the reception, if held at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.

Signed:

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Printed Name & Signature

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Date

---

Printed Name & Signature

---

Date

# *Declaration of Intention*

*We,*

----- *and* -----

understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties, with the help of God and the support of our community.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Priest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date