

couples desiring marriage undertake some form of marriage preparation, usually provided by trained professionals. The clergy have suggestions of such resources.

Bible readings

A list of suggested Bible passages will be provided, but there is flexibility to move beyond those readings or to use a particularly meaningful reading from a non-Biblical source. However, readings not from the Bible must be discussed with and approved by the clergy performing the service.

Readings and prayers may be done by family or friends of the couple, or by the clergy.

Flowers etc

We have available white bows for the ends of the pews. Please do not attach anything else to the pews.

Please select your own florist. We ask that for weddings on a Friday or Saturday, you leave the flowers on the two stands on the far east wall for the service on the following Sunday, but remove any other flower arrangements and other decorations from the church.



Please – no confetti, rice, flower petals, or birdseed in the church or on the grounds.

Music

The couple should discuss their choice of music with the Priest. The usual opportunities for music are prelude (15 minutes or so before the ceremony begins); during the signing of the church register and marriage licence; and recessional. Hymns and solos are optional. As a general rule, music should be conventional sacred music, since this is a reli-

gious ceremony; popular songs are best reserved to the reception. You can use our organist, or supply your own musician or soloist.

Photographs and videos

The wedding ceremony is an act of worship, so please do not use flash cameras during the service. There will be plenty of opportunities for photographs, with flash if needed, during the signing of the register and after the service.

If you have a professional photographer, s/he **must** coordinate with the priest to work in a suitable location that will not detract from the sanctity of the service. Under no circumstances may the photographer or videographer move about in the sanctuary during the service.

Fees

Fees for the church are used to defray the costs associated with your wedding. They include the time spent by the clergy in planning the wedding and the rehearsal. Included in these fees, we will provide wedding bulletins for the number of guests you expect to attend the ceremony

Wedding \$500

Organist \$150

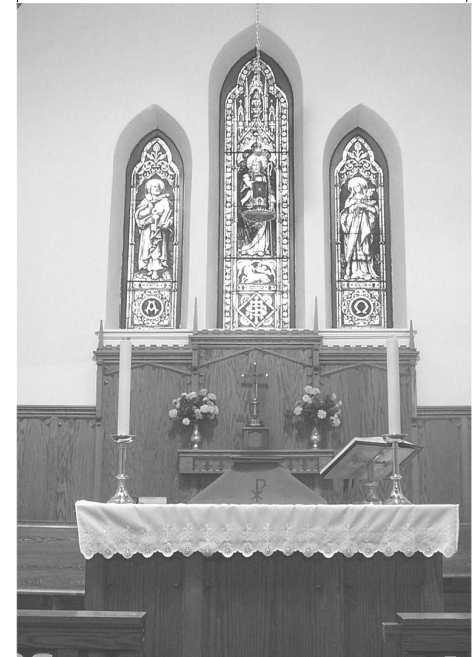
Fees are due no later than one week prior to the wedding.

Reception

St. George's has a hall that can comfortably seat 160 people for a meal. It can be rented for the reception, and catering can be arranged. For details on hall and rental information, please see the "Rental" section of our website.:

www.stgeorgeslowville.com

Weddings



**St George's
Anglican Church,
Milton**

Weddings at St George's

To the couple planning marriage

Congratulations! You have made the decision to make a commitment to each other in marriage. We at St. George's Anglican Church are delighted and honoured that you are considering inviting us to be part of this celebration.

Marriage is both a civil, legal ceremony and also a religious ceremony. A marriage at City Hall satisfies the legal requirements. By choosing to be married in the church, you also ask God to bless you and the promises you make to each other.

We do not require you to be members of our congregation in order to be married at St. George's – although we would be delighted if you decide to join us, and remain with us as parishioners after your marriage. Our worship service is held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. By attending some services, you will become more comfortable with the church building and get to know the clergy and other members of our congregation on a more personal basis. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call – our telephone number is 905-878-1112, and our priest (Rev. Nigel Bunce) is available by e-mail at nigelbunce@hotmail.com.

Logistics

St George's is a traditional old stone church in beautiful surroundings on the Niagara escarpment. The church holds about 125 people. There is plentiful parking. Canon law (church rules) of the Anglican Church of Canada requires that those who intend to marry must provide sixty days no-



tice of the proposed wedding date, unless there are special circumstances that necessitate an exception. It is helpful, of course, if more notice can be given.

In Ontario, the priest not only performs a religious ceremony, but also acts on behalf of the Province, in order that the marriage can be legally recognized. To this end, all couples getting married must be in possession of a valid marriage licence, which is obtained from City Hall (not necessarily at Milton) and is valid for ninety days from the date of issue. If either or both of you have been previously married, the civil registrar will require documentary evidence of the final divorce decree, or death certificate if the former spouse is deceased.

In order that we can have all the paperwork ready for your wedding, we require that you hand in the marriage licence at least one week ahead of the marriage.

The Wedding

A wedding is a sacrament in the Anglican Church. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of God's grace. In the case of a marriage the outward and visible symbols are the vows (promises) that the couple says

as they join hands, and the ring or rings that they exchange. These symbols are the outward actions of the sign of God's grace manifested in the love God has for each of them, and the love they have for each other – in other words, that God's wisdom and blessing will be part of the ceremony.



At a first meeting the couple and clergy meet at the church to discuss marriage and what it means to the couple. At this meeting the time of the wedding is booked and one, or two, other appointments are made to discuss the service. A rehearsal is held (usually the day before the ceremony) to ensure that all goes smoothly on the day. All participants to the wedding, including bridesmaids, best man, and ushers are expected to participate in the rehearsal.

There is some flexibility in the service, in that we want this to be your wedding, crafted to meet the needs of you and your family. Concerning the actual marriage vows; there is a limited flexibility to modify these vows within the traditions of the Anglican Church of Canada. In all cases, these vows remain sacred promises made to each other in the presence of God.

Marriage in the Anglican Church of Canada may be celebrated with or without Eucharist (Holy Communion). Whether or not to celebrate the Eucharist should be part of the discussion of the couple with the priest.

It is important to us that your marriage be a successful one. To that end, we require that