



*Your 2026 Wedding at*  
Trinity Church, Newport  
Rhode Island

# Policies

Revised September 2025

## A letter from the Rector

*Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of these two people in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.*

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 423*

Congratulations on your engagement! For nearly 300 years, couples have stood before the historical pulpit of our church, holding hands, as those opening words of the marriage service are read. Trinity Church is a parish of the Episcopal Church, which considers holy matrimony a sacramental rite – or a way to receive God’s grace – and not just a ceremonial or legal formality.

I have had the privilege of officiating dozens of weddings, and I can say unequivocally that the moment two people vow to love and cherish one another for life is truly sacred. God is present, and it is an honor for me to offer God’s blessing on your marriage.

Planning a wedding can be overwhelming, and there are so many decisions involved. We are grateful that you are considering Trinity as place for this holy sacrament.

We hope the following materials will answer most of your questions. Please feel free to reach out to the church office for more information, or email me directly. Once you have secured your wedding at Trinity our Wedding Director, Cynthia O’Malley, will assist you with your planning!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Peace,



The Rev. Meaghan Kelly Brower

## Contact Information

**The Rev. Canon Meaghan Kelly Brower**, Rector: [rector@trinitynewport.org](mailto:rector@trinitynewport.org)

**Molly Chamberlain**, Parish Administrator: [Parishadmin@trinitynewport.org](mailto:Parishadmin@trinitynewport.org)

1 Queen Anne Square

Newport, RI 02840

401-846-0660

## Fees

We know that weddings are expensive, and we try to keep our fees reasonable. We use these fees to help continue the important ministry of this church in our community, and to preserve and care for this historic and beautiful building. We hope you know that your money – through these fees – helps us to share God’s love more broadly in this place.

### **FIXED FEES**

**For the use of the church building** \$3750

*Includes use of the church building and grounds for wedding rehearsal, and 1 hour prior to wedding and 30 minutes after ceremony, and use of the Hawes Room.*

### **Staff and Support:**

Trinity Wedding Director \$600

*Assists with any and all questions, arranging details, present at rehearsal and day of your wedding to assist as needed*

Music Director \$600

*Available to aid in selection of music, plays organ at the ceremony  
Will hire and coordinate additional musicians as needed*

Clergy \$600

*Assists with ceremony planning, leads rehearsal, officiates ceremony  
Often includes 3 pre-marital counseling sessions*

### **VARIABLE FEES**

Police detail \$280/per 100 people

*Required by the City of Newport for events with over 100 guests*

Additional Musicians TBD

*Brass, strings, singers, etc coordinated by our Music Director*

Holiday Fee \$300

*Provides holiday pay for staff if wedding falls on major holiday*

If over 200 guests \$400

## Who can get married at Trinity?

Any couple who believes in God and seeks God's blessing on their marriage is welcome here. We do require that at least one member of the couple is a baptized Christian.

We joyfully perform weddings for same sex couples and individuals of any gender identity.

## Getting Started

Your first step is to contact our parish office to ask about available wedding dates. After that, we will go over the process, clarify the next steps, and provide you with a wedding form that will need to be completed and returned. Please do not make any plans (like ordering invitations) until you have met or spoken with a member of the parish clergy and received confirmation of the date.

## Pre-Marital Preparation

The Episcopal Church requires couples to participate in pre-marital preparation with a pastoral counselor. This counseling is an opportunity to talk through your hopes and expectations for your marriage. Considering it marriage-planning in the addition to your wedding planning!

The counseling usually consists of three to four sessions, with the final session focused on planning the details of the service.

If a couple resides in another area they may, with the consent of the clergy, receive pre-marital counseling from a counselor near their home. We will need to receive a report on the counseling at least one month before the wedding.

## Marriage After Divorce

If one or both members of the couple has been previously married, the clergy person must request permission from the Bishop for them to be re-married. The request to the Bishop must be made at least 30 days before the wedding. It must include a summary of the completed counseling, and copies of divorce decrees.

## The Service

At Trinity Church, we use the worship materials of the Episcopal Church. "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage," which starts on page 423 of the Book of Common Prayer, is the primary marriage service text. (You can find the text online at BCPonline.org, under "Pastoral Offices"). A version of this ceremony without the hetero-normative language can be sent to you upon request. Couples can choose readings and music in conversation with the clergy. **The vows used in the Episcopal wedding service are the ones in the Prayer Book** – they are classic and beautiful. In general, most weddings take around 20-30 minutes. If there is Eucharist the wedding will take an hour.

Including the Holy Eucharist (or communion) in conjunction with the wedding, is always appropriate and can be a beautiful beginning to a couple's new life together.

### Programs & Invitations

You are responsible for the printing of your service programs and invitations, but please do not print anything until the details have been confirmed by our staff.

### Music

In the months leading up to your wedding our Director of Music will contact you to discuss your music selections. He will have suggested pieces and can play them for you, or you may have some suggestions too. Please note that the repertoire must be written for the organ.

In most cases, music written for symphony orchestra will not work. Our Director of Music is happy to work with you to find music you love!

If you would like to hire additional musicians (e.g., singers, brass, a string quartet), Our Director of Music will arrange that as well. The Director of Music needs to approve all music selections for your wedding.

### Flowers

Your florist must submit his/her plan to the Wedding Director for approval by 30 days before the wedding. The Wedding Director will walk you through the best places for floral arrangements at the beginning of your planning process.

### Photography

We know that your photos will help you remember your wedding day forever, so we try to be flexible with your photographers. However, the photographing, videotaping, and/or audio recording of the service may not interfere with the tone and movement of the service. The Center aisle of the church **must be clear of all photographic or video equipment at all times**. Photographers need to limit their movements so as not to be distracting to the guests or wedding party, and use available light – **no flashes during the service**. (We are happy to reenact portions of the service afterward if your photographer needs to use a flash.) We ask that you limit your inside photography to 30 minutes following the service to allow time for our staff to clean and prepare the church for other services.

Before the start of the wedding, the clergy will ask guests to turn their phones off and put them away (not just silence them).

## Rehearsal

The rehearsal is held at 4:00 p.m. the day before the wedding. All members of the wedding party, parents, and any readers should be there. The rehearsal will take an hour, but will not start until everyone is present. So, please be on time. If you have a professional wedding planner, this is the time when he/she can coordinate with the couple, clergy, and our Wedding Director on any details and expectations for the wedding day. **The officiating clergy will run the rehearsal.**

## The Church Building

The Historic Church is located at Queen Anne Square in Newport.  
The address is:

Trinity Church  
1 Queen Anne Square  
Newport, RI 02840

Capacity: Trinity seats 300 people comfortably.

Parking: We have 10 parking places available to the wedding party and guests on premises. Parking in Newport is usually difficult to come by. There are a couple of public parking lots within a few blocks of the church. The closest is on Mary Street. However, your guests will appreciate not having to find parking (and your wedding will be more likely to start on time) if you can provide a shuttle/trolleys or arrange an Uber or Lyft group event.

Accessibility: The church has one accessible door off of Spring Street and our small parking lot.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located in Honyman Hall, just across the driveway from the church. There are no restrooms in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century Church. Please let your guests know to plan accordingly.

Parish Hall: Our beautiful Hawes Room in Honyman Hall can be used for your reception for an additional fee. We have a commercial kitchen, and room for 50 guests (more if the reception is not a seated meal). Talk with our Parish Administrator if you are considering holding your reception in Honyman Hall.

## Your Wedding Day

No wedding will begin later than 5:00 pm. All services are expected to start on time.

Because we have limited space, wedding parties must arrive dressed.

The Hawes Room will be a gathering area for the wedding party.

Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before the wedding – more if you are having pictures taken before the service.

We want your wedding to be joyful with no unhappy surprises. So, for safety, no loose rose petals, rice, or confetti may be used (indoors or outdoors). Fireworks of any kind are expressly forbidden to protect our wooden Church.

Please be sure that your florists, photographers and videographers, and any other vendors have coordinated with the Trinity Wedding Director as to when they will be arriving so the church will be open and staff will be there.

***We are delighted that you are considering historic Trinity Church for your wedding! May God bless you as you prepare to be married.***

