

CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

North River Road, Kingstown
P.O. Box 860
St. Vincent & the Grenadines W.I.
cathedral@vincysurf.com
784-456-1408



Information for Couples Preparing for the Celebration of Marriage Introduction

The Cathedral of the Assumption is the “mother” Church of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is the home of the major liturgical celebrations of the Diocese throughout the year and it is a Parish Church. The Cathedral takes its name from the cathedra or “seat of the Bishop” which is housed in our Church. Our Cathedral is recognised for its architectural beauty and history.

Our Parish is a spiritual home for many within Kingstown and its suburbs. Since the time of the Benedictine monks especially of blessed memory Dom Charles Verbeke, our Cathedral has provided spiritual and moral leadership for the Catholic population spread throughout the island of St. Vincent. It has stood as a beacon of faith and hope in an ever-changing world.

As a Parish Community, we are happy that you are taking the time to read this information regarding the celebration of marriage, and we hope that your upcoming celebration will be a truly joyful and memorable experience for you and your families. We do have some basic guidelines which apply to all couples... specific questions regarding your celebration may be directed to the Administrator of the Cathedral.

Who can be married at the Cathedral?

A man and a woman – one or both of whom are Latin Rite Roman Catholic – may enter Marriage so long as both parties to the marriage are free of any prior bond of marriage. This means that if either the bride or the groom has been married before – in a civil or church ceremony – no date for marriage can be arranged. Once the freedom to marry has been established by the appropriate Church authorities a date for marriage can be set. Further, at least the bride or the groom, or one of their families, should be registered Parishioners of the Cathedral Parish. A member of the Parish is someone who lives in the geographic territory of the Cathedral Parish or has been a Parishioner for at least 6 months.

A member is also someone who faithfully attends Sunday Mass and supports the Parish with their time, talent, and treasure. Catholics who attend another Parish community in the Diocese of Kingstown may be married here with the permission and cooperation of their Parish Priest. A donation for the support and upkeep of the Cathedral will be requested of those who do not regularly support us with their financial contributions.

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What are my first steps in arranging for Marriage at the Cathedral?

If you are a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish, complete the Marriage Application and arrange an appointment with the Administrator through our Parish Office. Please bring recently issued (past 6 months) Baptism Certificates for the Catholic party(ies) to the proposed marriage.

If you are not a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish, please complete the application for marriage, obtain recently issued (within 6 months of the application) Baptism Certificates for the Catholic party(ies) to the proposed marriage.

Once your wedding celebration has been accepted by the Administrator of the Cathedral, he will contact your Parish Priest to obtain a letter of permission. He may also request your Parish Priest's assistance with some or all the aspects of Marriage Preparation depending upon your situation. Please know that priority is given to couples who are parishioners and attend Mass here on Sundays. Only the Administrator of the Cathedral can confirm a date and time for the celebration of Marriage. This arrangement will be made with you at a personal meeting with both the bride and groom.

Our office staff, the priests, and deacons of the Cathedral, will not discuss potential dates for marriage by telephone or email, or with anyone other than the bride and/or groom. It is best not to finalize the date with your reception venue until you have secured a date and time with the Cathedral. Exceptions might be made for persons living outside of St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the permission of the Administrator.

Are there requirements for Marriage Preparation?

Marriage Preparation – through a Diocesan approved course – is required for all couples seeking the celebration of Marriage at the Cathedral. Once your wedding date and time have been confirmed by the Administrator, you will receive information on the various components of Marriage Preparation offered through the Diocese of Kingstown and the Cathedral Parish. Arrangements can be made for couples overseas to have their preparation done in the home parish through the Chancellor of the Diocese of Kingstown.

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Do we have to obtain a Civil License?

Yes. Couples are required, by the Laws of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to obtain a Civil Marriage License from the Office of the Registrar (of the High court). This license can be obtained within 90 days of the date of the wedding – we require it here at the Parish within one month of the date of your wedding. Adjustments can be made for those who live overseas with the consent of the Administrator of the Cathedral.

Is there a time requirement for the notification of marriage?

Couples who plan to marry at the Cathedral are advised to contact our Parish Office at least six months in advance of the desired date of marriage. This will allow enough time to complete the various requirements of marriage preparation and documentation. The same applies to couples who plan a “destination” wedding.

Decorating the Cathedral

Couples may arrange for floral arrangements to be brought to the Cathedral for the wedding ... it is understood that these floral arrangements stay after the wedding as a gift to the Parish. No other decorations – banners, runners, announcement boards will be permitted inside or outside the Cathedral. Please remember to respect the Cathedral as a sacred space.

Photography & Videography

Only two (2) professional photographer or video operator will be permitted to record your ceremony in the Cathedral. Assistant photographers will not be permitted to record the ceremony inside the Cathedral. They are not allowed inside the Cathedral Sanctuary area.

Who contacts the Cathedral?

It is best that the bride and/or the groom contact the Cathedral Office. Please note that we do not discuss the availability of dates by telephone or email. The Cathedral Administrator will be pleased to meet with you once you have completed the Application for Marriage form found on the Diocese’s website or in the Cathedral Office and have obtained new Baptism Certificates (for Catholics).

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Why a new Baptism Certificate?

For Catholics, the Baptism Certificate proves one's freedom from a prior bond of marriage in the Catholic Church. It is a required document to enter marriage.

What are the costs associated with a wedding at the Cathedral?

The fee breakdown follows: Donation for the upkeep of the Cathedral \$100

This portion of the fee may be waived, at the discretion of the Administrator, if the couple or family are already supporting the Parish with their weekly donations.

Payable at the time of "booking" the wedding. Cheques payable to RC Cathedral of the Assumption.

These fees can be paid to the Office (ensure you receive a receipt):

All fees are quoted in Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD)

- Offering for the use of the Cathedral **\$175.00**
- Organist **\$100.00**
- Cantor/choir (leader of song) **\$60.00**
- Altar Server **(\$20.00 each)**
- Livestreaming \$

Other musicians may not be engaged without the permission of the Administrator or the agreement of the Cathedral Office. Outside singers may not be engaged without the permission of the Administrator or the agreement of the Cathedral Liturgical Team.

Other questions

Many other questions will be answered at the wedding workshop and in your personal interview with the Administrator. Please note that all arrangements for your wedding are made between the Administrator and the couple personally – not through intermediaries – wedding planners, parents, or other relatives.

Next steps

Complete the Application for Marriage

Obtain your Baptismal Certificate (for Catholics it must be a recently issued certificate).

Arrange an appointment to meet with the Administrator of the Cathedral by contacting the Cathedral Office.

Effective January 2021