

The Sacrament of Marriage at The Church of the Holy Faith – Santa Fe, NM

A man and a woman who desire to be married at The Church of the Holy Faith – Santa Fe, New Mexico, will show their sincerity of commitment to Holy Faith by regular attendance at services of worship, financial support of the Church, prayer, and involvement in the life of the congregation for at least one year prior to the desired wedding date.

It is expected that a couple who desires to marry at Holy Faith will, prior to their ceremony, complete *The Alpha Course*, as well as *The Marriage Course*.

Given the number of requests for weddings at Holy Faith, the parish staff is rarely able to accommodate non-member couples who desire to have their wedding ceremony in this parish.

Wedding ceremonies at The Church of the Holy Faith are public services of worship, not private affairs or social spectacles. Thus, wedding ceremonies at Holy Faith are done in accordance with *The Book of Common Prayer* and the *Wedding Customary for The Church of the Holy Faith*, a portion of which is seen below.

Discussions concerning wedding ceremonies at Holy Faith take place only between the clergy, staff, and bride-to-be and groom-to-be. The Rector is the final authority in all matters.

Fees for use of Holy Faith's facilities, as well as recommended honoraria for the Holy Faith Wedding Coordinator, Altar Guild, and other staff, can be obtained from the Rector.

Holy Faith does not use outside wedding coordinators.

The Church Organist/Choir Master is the resident musician for weddings at Holy Faith. Music, as well as musicians, for weddings at Holy Faith must be approved by the Officiating Clergy and Organist/Choir Master.

Couples interested in weddings at Holy Faith can contact Fr. Curt Norman at 505.982.4447 ext. 102 or curt.norman@gmail.com.

Wedding Customary for The Church of the Holy Faith

1. Marriage

- a. It is the teaching of this Church that marriage is a “physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.”
- b. No priest may solemnize the vows of marriage of any couple unless they have first obtained a license to be married provided by civil authority.
- c. No priest may solemnize the vows of marriage of any couple unless he/she has first counseled with the couple on the nature, meaning and purpose of Christian marriage.
- d. Priests of this Church should officiate at the rite on Holy Matrimony only when there is a significant pastoral relationship between the priest and at least one party to the marriage.
 - i. Deacons are not authorized or licensed to officiate at the rite of Holy Matrimony.
 - ii. Deacons may assist in the service, including the preaching of the homily.
 - iii. By Canon Law, Priests are responsible for the pastoral counsel and teaching required for couples to be married according to the rite of this Church.
- e. All persons to be married in the Episcopal Church must sign a declaration of intention in the presence of the priest who will officiate at the wedding, and solemnize the vows of the man and woman, which declaration is to be held on file as a part of the records of the congregation.
- f. At least one party to the marriage must be a Confirmed Episcopalian. Both parties to the marriage must signify their free and informed desire to receive the ministration of Holy Matrimony as provided by this Church, without coercion, fraud, or mental reservation.
- g. Marriages are expected to be celebrated in the church as services of worship and not as private affairs or social spectacles.
 - i. In their discretion, priests may officiate at service of Holy Matrimony at sites other than the church structure.
 - ii. Normally weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent, except for pastoral reasons.
- h. Clergy may not solemnize the vows of marriage until at least 90 days have passed between the time when the parties first signify their intention to the priest, and the date of the service. This period may be waived, provided that the cause for waiving the 90 days’ requirement is weighty.
- i. No priest may bless relationships which do not meet the criteria for Holy Matrimony set forth in Holy Scripture, the *Book of Common Prayer* and the Canons of this Church, or cause persons who are parties to such relationships to believe that they have the blessing of God or of the Church.

Persons who are seeking remarriage after divorce may contact Fr. Curt Norman.

Additional information concerning weddings at Holy Faith will be published soon.

This revision was made on January 21, 2010.