



Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Pembroke, Ontario

Stewardship During Life's Big Moments

Across centuries and cultures, people have gathered as a part of sacred traditions to mark significant events in life. The fifth century bishop and saint, Augustine of Hippo, described many of these moments — what the Church calls “sacraments” — as outward and visible signs of inward and invisible grace. From baptism and confirmation to the vows of marriage, to rituals at the time of death, these moments deepen our life and faith in tangible and transformative ways. It is our privilege to share some of these milestones with you at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

We are often asked, “Is there a fee to hold a service?” Anglican history and theology teach us that it is not appropriate to charge a fee for that which is a free gift of God’s grace, for it is out of God’s abundant love for us that life’s big moments are truly made possible. In thanksgiving for that abundant love, many individuals choose to offer thanks at the time of a major milestone in the form of a donation to the Church. It is also sometimes customary to offer honouraria to the church staff, including the clergy, musicians, and custodian, in thanksgiving for their efforts. This document has been prepared to support you in making financial decisions that feel right for you and your family. We thank you for considering the needs of the Church as you plan for your life’s milestone, be it baptism, confirmation, matrimony, or a celebration of a life.

Baptism

In baptism we are a new creation, born into the life of the Church, and commissioned to be Christ's body in the world. Although we continue the Anglican tradition of baptizing infants and young children, baptism is also increasingly common for those who come to — or renew — their faith as adults. Baptisms can take place at any time, but most often take place on four principal Feast Days of the Church: Easter, Pentecost, All Saints Day, and the Baptism of the Lord.

As baptisms usually take place during Sunday worship, honoraria for the clergy, organist or custodial staff are not required. **A donation to the church is encouraged: a suggested amount is \$200.** This can be placed on the collection plate on the day of the baptism. If a reception is organized to celebrate the baptism an additional donation to the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) is encouraged. New baptismal candidates and their families are also encouraged to consider becoming regular contributors to the church, as part of their ongoing commitment to living the Christian life. Weekly or monthly envelopes, or forms for pre-authorized remittances, can be obtained from the church office.

Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation

Confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation are various modes of response to baptism, and take place within the context of an Episcopal visit. As with baptisms, these rites typically take place during regular Sunday worship, so honoraria for the clergy, organist or custodial staff are not required. **A donation to the church is encouraged: a suggested amount is \$200.** This can be placed on the collection plate during worship. If a reception is organized to celebrate Confirmation an additional donation to the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) is encouraged to help defray associated costs. Candidates and their families are also encouraged to consider becoming regular contributors to the church as part of their renewed commitment to living the Christian life.

Holy Matrimony, Blessing of Civil Marriages and Vow Renewals

Your wedding day, marriage blessing or wedding vow renewal is an important moment in your life together. Marriage is a gift of God and a means of God's grace, in which two people become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as married partners give themselves to each other in love, they shall grow together and be united in that love, as Christ is united with his Church.

As marriages, blessings and vow renewals typically do not take place within the context of regularly scheduled worship, it is customary to offer an honourarium to the officiating cleric (**\$250**). It is likewise customary to offer an honourarium to the church organist if their services are desired (**\$125** for the wedding liturgy, and **\$50** for the wedding rehearsal). These honouraria should be made payable to the individual cleric and/or organist and are due at the time of the rehearsal. Couples wishing to rent the church hall for the purposes of a reception may do so. Hall rentals and associated fees are governed by Holy Trinity's hall rental policy.

As weddings and related ceremonies usually involve additional efforts on the part of Holy Trinity's congregation (such as decorating, cleaning, the production of service leaflets, etc.) couples are also encouraged to consider making an additional donation to the church to assist with recouping these and other associated costs. **A suggested amount is \$200.** Couples who are already members of our worshipping community, or who intend to become members, are further encouraged to consider becoming regular contributors to Holy Trinity. Weekly or monthly offering envelopes, or forms for pre-authorized remittances, can be obtained from our office.

Funerals, Interments and Celebrations of Life

We seek to be a source of support when death unfolds, for the dying as well as family and friends. Our primary aim is to provide comfort to those who grieve, and to honour the gift of life. The customary honouraria for officiating clergy (**\$200**) and the organist (**\$100**) are usually arranged in conjunction with the coordinating funeral home. We encourage you to speak with your funeral director to confirm your wishes with respect to honouraria for the church's staff.

The use of our church hall for funeral luncheons and/or receptions is coordinated in conjunction with the Holy Trinity chapter of the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) We again invite you to speak with your funeral director, who will liaise with Holy Trinity's A.C.W. on your behalf.

We also invite individuals and families to prayerfully consider making **legacy gifts to Holy Trinity**, to honour lives well lived. Legacy gifts may be directed to a specific Holy Trinity fund, such as the General Operating Fund, the Building Fund, or the Memorial Fund. You may also wish to designate Holy Trinity as the full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy or make a contribution to a specific ministry of the Anglican Church of Canada, such as the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund or the Anglican Foundation of Canada. We invite you to speak with a member of the clergy regarding your wishes, together with your family and/or executor. Please note your wishes clearly and carefully in your Last Will and Testament. On behalf of our Holy Trinity Church Family, thank you for remembering the Church in your plans.