

Marriage Policy for the Diocese of Western Louisiana

Priests performing marriages in the Diocese of Western Louisiana must make use of the liturgies authorized by the Episcopal Church and must adhere to the canons and General Convention resolutions governing this sacrament. Before solemnizing a marriage, priests must attain a license from the civil authority. Deacons are not authorized to solemnize a marriage.

All persons seeking to be married in the Episcopal Church must sign a declaration of intention. Please note that the declaration of intention was revised at the 78th General Convention (2015). The signed declaration remains as a permanent record within the congregation.

Normally, weddings are not celebrated during Advent or Lent. Weddings should not take place during Holy Week.

Priests are required to provide for thorough, theologically and spiritually rich premarital counseling. In the case of those seeking marriage following a divorce, additional care must be taken to make certain that healing has occurred, that lessons have been learned, that any children from the previous marriage are properly cared for, and that the divorced person is genuinely prepared to enter into the vocation and grace of marriage. Priests must petition the Bishop for permission to solemnize a marriage when one or both of the persons has been divorced.