



**ST. PATRICK
CEREMONY OFFICIANTS
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Your Big Day!

We would like to introduce you to St. Patrick Abbey Wedding Ceremonies. We provide Ceremony Officiants to couples. Please consider our Officiant services as a resource in planning your Wedding at your desired location, as you will need a Wedding Officiant to preside at your Wedding Ceremony.

Rev. Carroll officiates and performs an excellent Wedding Ceremony we welcome your input to help create your own personalized Ceremony. You can write your own Wedding vows. It's your Wedding and it's your "BIG DAY".

Rev. Carroll has performed many Weddings all over the United States. He has been in religious life over thirty-five years and has served as a Military Officer Chaplain in the United States Air Force. He is very inclusive and welcoming in his style of all people from all walks of life. He is the Abbot of St. Patrick Abbey and the Bishop of the Mid-Atlantic Diocese. He helps people from all faiths and traditions who wish to be united in marriage. He has also officiated for many couples at ceremonies renewing their vows. His easygoing style and sense of humor has caused a number of family, friends, and guests from their former Weddings that he has officiated at to call St. Patrick Abbey to request him to be the Officiant at their Wedding Ceremony. Many letters and photos are sent to the Abbey to thank Rev. Carroll usually after every Ceremony. In fact, most of the Ceremonies that Rev. Carroll officiates at are referrals from other couples, guests, or Wedding Officiants. It is not uncommon for him to be booked on certain dates two years in advance. The Abbey is blessed indeed, to have him serve as the Abbot, Bishop, and Leader of St. Patrick's community. All fees, donations, stipends, etc. made out to St. Patrick Abbey are used as benefactor resources to continue the various work and ministries of the Abbey.

Saint Patrick Abbey is an Ecumenical Community. About 90% of the Weddings we officiate at/perform are non-denominational. We mostly travel to the location of the Wedding Ceremony site. We can also offer Communion for all guests at the Ceremony.

The Ceremony is what you will remember most! Couples who want their Ceremony to be

a spiritual expression of their love will be glad they chosen Rev. Carroll to officiant at their Ceremony. Whether the bride and groom be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, or any other faith, or no faith at all, God has blessed you with the gift of love, and that overrides everything else. If you have been previously married, divorced, or have other particular circumstances in your life, we can do this together.

Please take into consideration the religious traditions or spiritual values of both the Bride and Groom and your families. If you are of different faiths, it is important to be inclusive and considerate of each of your beliefs. Actually the core beliefs of most religions today are very similar and the areas of disagreement are relatively minor. Virtually everyone believes that God is the essence of Love. God's primary command is for us to become better, loving, compassionate, and caring people. A lot of the Ceremony is built around your beliefs and values.

God loves every human being. You want your Ceremony to show how you feel and be relevant to your beliefs with family, friends, and guests. Everybody has a philosophy of life, but many people have never put it into words, or have not yet had the occasion to think clearly about what is truly important to them. You want this most important moment in your life to reflect your core beliefs and your truest feelings. Some Couples may want the Ceremony to be light and a joyful Ceremony, and others want it to be a bit more serious and solemn. We will create a Ceremony that is warm, personal, celebrative, and reverent for you.

Certain Officiants and locations have many rules and restrictions. We have few. We have Ceremony models on the web site at www.saintpatrickabbey.org that will guide you to modify your model selected to assist you to create your Ceremony that fits both of you. Some Officiants may allow interfaith ceremonies only if both parties agree to bring up the children, if applicable, in their faith. We leave that decision up to the couple themselves.

The words of the Ceremony will create the atmosphere of love that we both create to reflect who you and your fiancée/fiancé are as husband and wife. This will be a powerful launch into your new life together. A Wedding is an arrival, thus settling into a life of sharing, this is what commitment is all about!

A Wedding Ceremony builds on the values of your past and looks to your future. Your Ceremony will speak eloquently to you both throughout your life.

Planning Logistics

Contact our Administration Office as-soon-as-possible. Please view the web site at www.saintpatrickabbey.org and download sample Ceremony, vows, and readings so that you can become familiar with the flow of the various parts of the Ceremony.

The documents are designed with a number of choices, so that you can go through and pick the parts you like and discard the parts you do not like. When you are done, you will be able to say to each other, "Now this sounds like us!" You have time to go over the options and send your selections back to the office by e-mail. Together we will create your own unique Ceremony, reviewing it to ensure that the Ceremony flows smoothly throughout.

CONFIRM!

You will **NOT** be securely "booked" until all Ceremony requirements and fees have been sent to the office. To lock in your date and time of your Ceremony, e-mail or fax to the Administration Office the required documents and mail a check for the appropriate Ceremony and travel fees. Many couples want the same date and time especially on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from March through November. **The Administration Office works on a first come, first served basis with those couples who get all the requirements and fees sent into the office first.**

YOUR CUSTOMIZED WEDDING CEREMONY SCRIPT

This will be the **actual** Ceremony itself that we will read from during your Wedding. You can create your own personal Ceremony. Sample Ceremony scripts from other Weddings can be sent to you by e-mail at your request to help guide you in preparing your Ceremony. Contact the administration office to have these sent to you.

On the day of your Wedding, please have your Ceremony Book prepared and **bring it to the Wedding to be used for your Wedding Ceremony.** Once the Ceremony Script is approved, print it out in "**26" point font size.**" Place the Ceremony into clear plastic sheet protectors, in a white 3 ring binder. This is what will be used by Rev. Carroll at your Ceremony. **Please send/e-mail a copy of your Ceremony back to the administration office ASAP for our review/approval.**

NOTE: Please have the **pages separated so the speaking, reading, and page turning, flows well together.** When completing the Ceremony Script Book, **place only ONE page in each sheet protector and only on the right side of the white binder.** This stops unnecessary pauses in the reading of the Ceremony that causes dead space and silence, and interrupts the flow of the Ceremony from an audio point of view.

The readings should be given ahead of time to those who will read so that they can prepare and practice to read well. On the day of the Wedding, provide copies of the readings to the readers prior to the start of the Ceremony. You should select family and/or friends who are good at public speaking to read the readings selected by you. People who mumble and cannot be understood detract from your Ceremony. No reading is better than a mumbled reading.

FINAL CONFIRMATION

Do not forget to get your marriage license form your State/County prior to your Wedding day and bring all marriage license papers to the Ceremony along with your prepared Ceremony Script Book. Place the marriage license in the back of the Ceremony Script Book. The Administration Office will process your marriage license and send it to the State/County. We will e-mail you a copy.

We hope that our Wedding Officiant services we provide to you is a valued resource in assisting you the couple to celebrate your "BIG DAY." This will be performed in a style and manner that is comfortable and meaningful for you. We hope to hear from you soon.

I am Rev. Carroll's administrative assistant and I will be communicating with you most of the time by e-mail and/or telephone throughout the process.

If any additional information is needed, please respond by e-mail or call our office. Thank you.

**Rev. Mr. Ken Warne
Sub-Deacon/Office Administrator
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