



Marriage Guidelines

Here are some guidelines regarding weddings at St. John. We want to do everything we can to ensure that couples seeking marriage are well prepared for the new life they are about to begin in which, "the two shall become one," (Mark 10:7-9)

Getting Started

Couples seeking to be married at St. John should contact Father Eric at least six months before their wedding date. After this initial contact, a preliminary meeting will be scheduled with the couple and Father Eric to go over logistics, pre-marital requirements and other wedding details.

Miscellaneous Details:

- Weddings are not held during Lent or Holy Week (mid-February to mid-April).
- Wedding rehearsals are scheduled at 6:00 pm the evening before the wedding.
- The Church seats 250 people comfortably.
- The Church and Parish Hall have air conditioning.
- Wedding consultants are not included in the ceremony planning process.

Requirements

Regular Attendance at Worship

Couples seeking Christian marriage should be members of St. John's, with membership defined as regular weekly attendance at Sunday worship and as making a financial pledge.

Pre-Marital Counseling

Pre-marital counseling will consist of at least four sessions with Fr. Eric.

Divorce and Remarriage in the Episcopal Church

If one or both individuals are divorced they must apply for, and receive, permission from the Diocesan Bishop to be remarried in the Episcopal Church. Such permission is granted on a case-by-case basis. Widows, widowers, and divorcees whose first spouse has died do not need Episcopal permission to remarry. Please talk to Fr. Eric about this at the first meeting. If he feels that you can be remarried without impediment, he will describe the process to you both at that



time. The necessary paperwork must be completed and sent to the Bishop of the Diocese at least thirty days before your wedding date.

Music

Inquiries about wedding music should be made to the parish Music Director, Mr. Rodney Barnett. According to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the music of the Church should be, "an offering for the glory of God and as a help to the people in their worship," (Title II, Canon 6, Sec. 1). This holds true for weddings as well. The music for the ceremony should reflect the joyful reverence of the occasion. Therefore all selections, whether instrumentals or hymns, should be discussed with the Organist.

Logistics

Flowers

The Altar Guild at St. John's will work with your florist to decorate the Church or Chapel. Generally speaking, flowers are never arranged in such a way that obscures the altar or the cross. Flowers at the altar are usually left as an offering from the couple, to be used at the services on the following Sunday. Reserved pews may be marked by ribbon or flower arrangements. If you wish to use an aisle runner, please consult with your florist.

Photography

During the ceremony, the photographer may take pictures using natural light, as long as they are discreet and do not become a distraction. Flash pictures should not be taken during the marriage liturgy.

Videography

Videographers are subject to the same rules as photographers. They may use natural light, and set up their camera in a stationary place so as not to become a distraction.

Receptions

Reception space is available in Parish Hall for an additional fee. Tables and chairs are available for use, however the couple/caterer will need to provide set-up and tablecloths as well as dishware, glassware and cutlery.