



WEDDINGS AT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

“Holy Matrimony is Christian marriage, in which two persons enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing go God to help them fulfill their vows.”

– The Book of Common Prayer, page 861.

The celebration of Christian Marriage is an occasion of great joy and our clergy and staff look forward to supporting you and celebrating with you on your wedding day. Our church is not a venue but a sacred space where the making of solemn vows in the presence of the community binds them together by the grace of God. Our expectation is that couples getting married at Epiphany are and will continue to be involved in the life of the church. One should be an active, pledging member for at least six months before scheduling a wedding at Epiphany.

The Episcopal Church requires that at least one of the parties be a baptized Christian and that the marriage conform to the laws of the state and the policies of the church. We adhere to the marriage ceremonies authorized by the Episcopal Church, which include services for same-gender couples.

SCHEDULING A WEDDING

The first step is to contact our parish administrator and to schedule a meeting with the clergy. Please refrain from publicizing any dates or wedding times until they have been approved by the priest officiating your wedding and the Parish Administrator and your 50% deposit has been paid.

We perform weddings at any time of year with the exception of the season of Lent, and within one week of Christmas or Easter. We require at least three months’ notice of your desire to be married. We can schedule weddings as far as 18 months in advance between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Weddings will be officiated on-site in the church’s nave. The church seats a maximum of 287 people.

In light of our belief that marriage is not to be entered into lightly, prior to marriage, three sessions of premarital counseling with the priest are required. Please contact the priest officiating your wedding to schedule these sessions. In addition, your priest may ask you to participate in a couple’s workshop or to receive additional outside counseling.

For those who have been married previously, you must wait at least one year from the finalization of divorce to remarry and an application must be submitted to the bishop to secure permission to marry.

LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

Because marriage is centered around two persons entering into covenant relationship in a service of worship, our custom is to communicate only with the couple about wedding plans, rather than designated family members or professional wedding consultants.

When Eucharist is celebrated at the wedding, all are invited to receive. Any questions the couple may have regarding Eucharist may be answered during your meetings with the clergy.

Wedding bulletins can be printed by the parish office or may be printed by the couple with the vendor of the couple’s choosing. Bulletins must be approved by the priest before printing and at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

Rehearsals are held at 5 p.m. on the Friday before the wedding. It is expected that members of the wedding party participate and arrive on time. The rehearsal is conducted by the officiating clergy.

If a private wedding planner is hired, they will be welcome to assist with dressing and other tasks of the day but we ask all outside vendors to respect the policies of the church. Please make sure they have received a copy of these policies well in advance of the ceremony.

MUSIC

All music is at the discretion of the priest and the parish organist, and will conform to the standards set by the Episcopal Church for public worship. Secular music and/or popular music should be reserved for the reception. Couples may contact the parish organist to discuss and select music to be used during the wedding service. She can also coordinate with you in contacting additional musicians. No arrangements for music should be made without the knowledge and approval of the organist. All music decisions are subject to the final approval of the clergy.

WEDDING FLOWERS AND CANDLES

The only flowers permitted at a wedding are two vases of altar flowers. You may provide your own flowers if you wish but this needs to be coordinated with the flower guild and within the guidelines of Epiphany. It is expected that wedding flowers will remain in the Church for worship services on the following Sunday. The Sunday bulletin will identify the flowers as given in thanksgiving for the marriage. After services, they will then be delivered to those who are sick or shut-in.

Candles are limited to those used in public worship and there is not a place for the use of the Unity Candle in Episcopal worship. Additional decorations are typically not permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs may be taken up to 30 minutes before or after the wedding. During the service, flash photography is not permitted. We ask that the photographer remain at the rear of the church so as not to distract from the sacredness of the service itself. Video may be taken from the rear of the church only. Please remind guests to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony.

Rooms for dressing and waiting prior to the ceremony will be provided four (4) hours before the ceremony for the wedding party. Let the parish administrator know if you intend to use these rooms.

RECEPTION GUIDELINES

Use of the parish hall for the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception is treated as a separate rental and includes a rental agreement. Our parish hall seats a maximum of 150 people for a seated dinner. Your caterer will need to provide everything needed for the reception. Receptions must end no later than 9 p.m. Payment in full in advance is required to reserve the parish hall.

WEDDING FEE STRUCTURE

Pledging Members.....\$ 1,200.00

This fee includes the couple's pre-marital counseling, the organist, administrative support, and the sexton and includes use of the space for four (4) hours before and one (1) hour after the ceremony.

Additional Fees

Use of Parish Hall & Kitchen for Receptions..... \$ 400.00

Use of Parish Hall & Kitchen for Rehearsal Dinner \$ 400.00

Music

Choir Fee..... \$ 250.00

Music for the Rehearsal - if requested \$ 150.00

Additional rehearsal with outside musicians by the organist..... \$ 75.00

Flowers (if Epiphany supplies the altar flowers) \$ 250.00

Please discuss with the officiating priest if your circumstances make these fees prohibitive.

Payment of 50% is required to reserve your date and is refundable upon cancellation within a minimum of three months before your wedding day. The payment of the remaining fees is due one month prior to the ceremony. The marriage license must be presented to the clergy no later than one week prior to the wedding.

HELPFUL TIMETABLE

Once the couple has met with the priest and the wedding date is confirmed, there are some good timetable guidelines:

- Work with the priest who will be conducting your ceremony and determine the schedule for your counseling sessions together.
- Contact the parish administrator to answer planning questions regarding the ceremony and rehearsal.

Two months prior to the wedding date

- Work with the priest to complete the Wedding Information Form.
- Confirm your wedding bulletin with the parish administrator and schedule them for printing.
- Confirm your music selections with the organist and finalize any plans for soloists, musicians, etc.
- Confirm your flower arrangements with the Flower Guild.

2-4 weeks prior to the wedding date

- Bring the marriage license to the priest who will officiate the wedding.

1-2 weeks prior to the wedding date

- Send attendants and readers the information about rehearsal schedules, selected readings, photographs, etc. or anything else that will help them come prepared for your day.

Rehearsal Day

- Bring copies of bulletins to the rehearsal.
- Bring photography schedules to discuss with attendants and family members.

Wedding Day

- Relax and enjoy your blessed day!