



St. John's Wedding Customary

We are pleased that you want to celebrate your marriage in St. John's Church. We welcome the opportunity of supporting you in your commitment to each other, and hope that your wedding in St. John's Church will strengthen an already existing relationship with the parish or begin one that will become a long-term friendship with this Christian community. If you are not regularly worshipping with us, we invite you to do so. Our Sunday services are at 7:45, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage from the Book of Common Prayer is a service of worship. Marriage celebrations conform to the rubrics, canons and customary liturgical practices that help to shape all of our worship. Each congregation has guidelines and requirements that help express the reverence, solemnity and joy of these celebrations. There are also practical rules and regulations that reflect the limitations of space and that respect the need for volunteer and professional staff support for such occasions. The guidelines which follow are designed to maintain the dignity of the service and help us all work together to make the service an uplifting experience for all.

1. General Information

- One of the parties must be baptized.
- By canon, at least thirty days notice must be given before the date of the marriage.
- Pre-marital instruction takes place with the officiating priest and with a licensed counselor.
- A license from the State of Florida must be obtained.
- If one of the parties has been divorced, the Bishop must consent to the solemnization of the marriage.
- Marriages are not solemnized during Lent or on certain other days of the year.

2. First Steps

- Contact the parish offices to reserve the date for the service.
- Make an appointment with the Rector to discuss the details of the service, including the selection of the officiating priest.
- After meeting with the Rector, schedule meetings with the wedding coordinator and the organist.

3. Music

- The organist and choirmaster is responsible for all music at weddings.
- The organist for all weddings is the organist of St. John's Church or one of the assistant organists.
- The music for the service reflects the character of the music normally used at worship in Saint John's Church. **Secular music is not appropriate.**
- Additional musicians may be engaged and one of the choirs may participate if desired and if they are available.
- When the date of the service is placed on the calendar, the organist will be notified. The couple should arrange for an appointment with the organist as early as possible.

4. Flowers

- Flowers may be placed at the altar. They may be purchased from and arranged by the florist, or purchased by and arranged by a member of the altar guild. Certain size and height limits apply, so the details need to be worked out with the wedding coordinator.
- Flowers remain at the altar after the service for use on Sunday, and are later taken to the sick and homebound.
- Decorations and flowers may be used in the nave with the express consent and approval of the Rector.

5. Photographs and Videotaping

- At the beginning of the service, one photograph with flash may be taken as the bride enters the church. During the service, photos may be taken from the rear of the church with a camera on a tripod and without a flash. One flash photo may be taken as the couple processes down the aisle at the end of the service.
- Photos may be taken after the service for a period of thirty minutes. Photographs may also be taken before the service.
- Photographers are not to go behind the altar rail or rearrange furniture.
- Photographers are to consult with the officiant and altar guild member before the service.
- Videotaping is permitted using a camera placed at the baptismal font using natural light. Floodlights, roving cameras or cameras placed in other locations are not allowed. Only battery operated video cameras may be used because of the dearth of electrical outlets in the church.
- Members of the congregation are not permitted to use any kind of photographic equipment during the service. The couple is to advise their family and friends of this policy.

6. Other Matters

- Weddings may be scheduled no earlier than 11:00 a.m. and no later than 7:00 p.m.
- The bride and her attendants may dress in the Lowry Room in the parish house.
- There are no facilities for the groom and his attendants to dress at the church. Once at the church they wait in the child care room in the parish house.

- Alcoholic beverages are not to be brought to the church or to be consumed before the rehearsal or the marriage service.
- Throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti or anything other material is not permitted, either inside or outside of the church.
- Flowers or flower petals may not be scattered in the church.
- Aisle runners are not used in St. John's Church.
- Two off-duty police officers must be employed to supervise traffic and parking. Arrangements for this are made through the parish offices.
- It is expected that the service will begin on time. Altar guild volunteers will assist with the seating of family members and with the procession to keep to the schedule.
- Participants in the service and others should not gather informally in the church before the service begins. Children should be under adult supervision both at the rehearsal and at the wedding.

7. Costs

- Because the cost of a wedding in St. John's Church will vary depending upon the particulars of each service, no set fee is published. In general, however, wedding costs will include two police officers for traffic control, an organist, a sexton, a licensed pre-marital counselor, a printed program, certain administrative costs, and a gift to the altar guild. Other expenses may include a gift to the church and the cost of additional musicians (including an additional fee for the organist when extra rehearsal time is required). The clergy do not have a fee, but an honorarium (and/or a gift to the priest's discretionary fund) is appropriate. Please remember that money never stands in the way of anyone availing himself or herself of the life and ministry of the Church. If the Rector determines that the customary fees for a wedding in Saint John's Church are prohibitive, an adjustment can be made.

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