



# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Planning a Wedding at St. Andrew's

### What is marriage in the Episcopal church?

The sacrament of Holy Matrimony is a solemn and public covenant between two people, regardless of gender, in the presence of God. The couple vows that their marriage will be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong. Marriage signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church. All marriages in the Episcopal Church must conform to the approved liturgies of *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage*.

### Who may have a wedding at St. Andrew's?

In the Episcopal Church, the sacrament of marriage is available to couples of all genders. The qualifications for marriage are:

- At least one member of the couple must be a baptized Christian.
- At least one member of the couple currently is or is seeking to become an active member of St. Andrew's (defined by the Episcopal Church as "one who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship and working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.")\*
- If either party has been previously married and divorced, permission to remarry must be obtained from the bishop upon the recommendation of the parish priest

\* At the discretion of the rector, those who grew up at St. Andrew's or formerly were members may be given pastoral consideration so long as they demonstrate that they have a spiritual home and coordinate with the clergy of St. Andrew's and their home church to fulfill pre-marital counseling requirements.

### When do weddings happen?

- Weddings are not offered during the seasons of Advent or Lent.
- Weddings typically are on Saturdays between the hours of 11 am and 6 pm. Other days may be available depending on the availability of the clergy. Weddings generally are not available on Fridays.
- Until a wedding date has been confirmed by the Rector, no announcements or invitations should be sent.

### Preparation for Marriage

Following an initial meeting with a member of the clergy, couples must

- Regularly worship with us for a minimum of 6 months prior to marriage in order that the parish have time to know and support them in their spiritual union
- Undergo a series of pre-marital counseling sessions with the clergy (a minimum of four are required, and more may be requested by the couple and/or the priest)

- In the case of a remarriage for one or both parties, the clergy will need a copy of your divorce decree(s). Per the Canons of the Church, remarriages require permission from the bishop. The clergy of St. Andrew's will assist with that.

### **Planning the Service**

- The clergy will work with the couple to plan the liturgy (order of service) in accordance with the approved marriage rites of the Episcopal Church.
- Bulletins (printed orders of service) must be approved by the clergy. Invitations are the responsibility of the couple and should not be printed until details are finalized with the church. St. Andrew's can print simple yet elegant bulletins for you. If special paper or printing is requested, the couple may be asked to obtain the services of a printer at their own expense. Outsourced printing must be approved by the clergy no later than three weeks before the service.

### **Music**

- Music for weddings must be planned in consultation with St. Andrew's Director of Music, who must approve all music.
- The Director of Music or someone of their designation plays all music. Singers and additional musicians must be coordinated with and have the approval of the Director of Music and may require additional rehearsal fees for the Director of Music. Congregational Hymns, if used, must be chosen from the *Hymnal 1982*.

### **Flowers and other decorations**

- Weddings should provide flower arrangements for the main altar and optionally for the Lady altar. A member of the flower guild may assist you. The arrangements must fit into maximum height and width measurements:
  - Main altar - 30 in. wide, 37.5 in. tall
  - Lady altar -17.5 in. wide, 23 in. high)
- If you would like to use the Church's containers, please contact the chairperson of the flower guild. Arrangements should be created in inserts that can easily be placed the church's containers. All other mechanics (oasis, tape, etc.) should be provided by the florist or flower arranger.
- Altar arrangements are your gift to the church and remain for Sunday services.
- Silk or other artificial flowers may not be used.
- Arrangements other than the altar arrangements (pew swags, floral arches, window boxes, etc) must be approved by the chairperson of the St. Andrew's flower guild and must be removed from the church at the conclusion of the wedding.
- Because we have a beautiful church, no other decorations are needed to make your wedding special. Aisle runners, flower petals, rice, and bubbles create safety hazards and are not allowed. Balloons may not be brought into the church, nor may they be released outside.
- Throwing rice, confetti, birdseed, flower petals, etc on the church premises is not permitted.

## **The Rehearsal**

- The wedding rehearsal will be the day before the wedding, generally beginning at 4 pm. In addition to the couple, all readers, members of the wedding party, and those with moving parts must be in attendance.
- Couples should have obtained a marriage license from the Commonwealth of Virginia and bring it to the rehearsal. Please consult commonwealth law to make sure your license has not expired.
- At the wedding rehearsal, we will fill out all documentation needed for the church as well as the commonwealth.
- Wedding consultants or planners (commercial or family friends) are not necessary. Naturally, you may invite anyone you wish to help with details at home or at the reception.

## **Photographers and Videographers**

Your wedding is first and foremost a service of holy worship. As such, we require photographers and videographers to maintain decorum and respect the sanctity of the event and space. Any photographer who violates these policies will be removed immediately

- Photographers and videographers are welcome to attend the rehearsal
- Outdoor photos may be taken freely before and after the service.
- Prior to the service, photographers are welcome to take photos inside the church so long as they do not move any furnishings or other items. We ask that indoor photography wrap up 30 minutes prior to the start of the service.
- NO FLASH or any additional lighting may be used at ANY time during the ceremony. This includes during processions.
- At no point from the entry procession to the procession out may photographers be in the center aisle – this includes wedding guests. Photos may be taken from the side aisle or the back so long as camera equipment does not impede exits. Photographers should not distract from the wedding ceremony, so movement must be limited. Video cameras must be in an unobstructive and stationary place either in the back or in one of the transepts.
- Photographers should dress and behave in a manner that is suitable for a church service.
- Following the service, we are happy to recreate any moment for a photo. Photographers have 30 minutes following the service to take any other photos inside.
- St. Andrew's has the capability to livestream your wedding via our YouTube channel if you would like. It is a static shot.

## **The Day of the Wedding**

The church is available to you up to two hours before the service.

- We strongly suggest that the wedding party arrives dressed and ready. Simple waiting areas are available to you in the choir room and the guild room. Please note that we do not have spaces that are conducive to preparing make-up and hair.
- Weddings begin promptly, and a delay of more than 15 minutes forfeits your scheduled day without a refund of any fees.
- Immediately following the service, the couple will need to sign the church registry book. This must happen before any formal photos.
- **Absolutely no alcohol, drugs or controlled substances may be used prior to or during the wedding and are prohibited from the church property.** If any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the priest may choose not to allow the wedding to go forward.

### Schedule of Fees for a Wedding

We are privileged to be part of this sacred occasion. Fees for a wedding are listed below. In addition, White Hall may be available as a reception site for a fee, contingent upon the church's calendar and the approval of the rector. If you have questions or concerns about these costs, please talk to the priest.

Use of the Church/Facility Fee:	\$200 members; \$500 non-members
Honorarium for the Officiant(s):	\$300 per officiant
Honorarium for the Organist:	\$300 (additional fees apply if coordination is required with additional musicians)
Honorarium for the Wedding Coordinator:	\$200
Honorarium for the Sexton:	\$200
Candelabras if desired	\$150

Your wedding date is not secure until the Facility Fee has been paid. All other fees must be paid in full a minimum of two weeks prior to your wedding.