

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

**Policies and Guidelines of
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Portland, Oregon**

The Church is a wonderful place for a wedding.

It is an even better place for a marriage.

“The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.” (From “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage,” The Book of Common Prayer)

This wedding brochure is intended to be an introduction to the Sacrament of Christian Marriage as it is celebrated in the life of All Saints’ Episcopal Church. It is also intended to answer some of the more frequently asked questions about holding weddings here.

Because All Saints’ has been blessed with a beautiful physical church building that is open all people on their spiritual journeys, we desire to assist people on their life's commitments.

Therefore, while questions about the availability of the church building are important, they are rightly asked only after other questions have been asked and answered. For example:

- Why Christian marriage?
- Why this particular community of faith?
- Why get married at this point in my life?
- What is my commitment to God and the church?

Please read this brochure through, and then give us a call. We would love the chance to share the love of God made known in this place and to support you as you make this pivotal step in your life’s journey.

Grace and Peace,
The Rev. Stephen D Whitney-Wise
Rector, All Saints' Episcopal Church

Christian Marriage

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God, in which they enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows. The Sacrament of Marriage is to be entered into -- and lived out within -- a community of faith.

Marriage in the Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal Church, it is required that at least one of the parties be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State, and the Canons of the Church.

The rector of this church officiates at all weddings, although clergy of other traditions may be invited to participate. The wedding service is always in accordance with The Book of Common Prayer. The Episcopal Church requires that the minister officiating at a marriage must be certain that the bride and groom have been instructed about the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony (see page five).

Remarriage

In cases where a prior marriage has ended in divorce or annulment, the Bishop of Oregon must grant permission for the marriage to take place in the church. *In such instances, it is normative for All Saints' church to ask permission of the Bishop only after persons have been active, committed members of this parish for at least one year.*

Photography

Marriage is a solemn Sacrament of the Church, and in order to maintain the dignity and solemnity of that Sacrament, only discreet photography or video recordings are allowed during the liturgy. The only exception is that a flash picture may be taken from the rear of the church as the bride and groom are walking down the aisle AFTER the service is over.

The only exception is that if your photographer is informed in advance, he or she can be prepared to take (from the rear of the church, on a tripod) a NON-FLASH EXPOSURE of the scene at the chancel or altar rail during the service. Such photographs usually turn out very well. Reposing for pictures after the service is restricted to 30 minutes. This is necessitated by the need of the Altar Guild to prepare the altar for the next service. There are no restrictions on photographs in the parish hall or outside the church.

It Is the Responsibility of the Bride and Groom to comply with all logistics and familiarize yourself with all policies.

If you have questions please contact the parish office or Wedding Coordinator.

Conclusion

The people of All Saints' hope that this brochure is helpful as couples prepare not only for their wedding, but for their lifelong commitment to one another in marriage.

After the initial consultation, the All Saints' Wedding Consultant will forward a Wedding Information Sheet to the couple. ***A wedding date will be considered confirmed only after the information is completed and on file.*** The form will be used to complete all canonical forms and the bulletin for the service, if one is desired.

Weddings are normally scheduled on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Weddings are *not* normally held on Sundays, holiday weekends, or during the season of Advent. Weddings are never held during the season of Lent.

Rehearsal: There is normally a rehearsal at 5:00 p.m. on the day before the wedding for all members of the wedding party. The rehearsal will be brief and it is important that all participants are **ON TIME** for the rehearsal. The All Saints' Parish Wedding Consultant assists the clergy in coordinating and conducting all aspects of the liturgy; no other wedding coordinator is needed or allowed at the rehearsal or wedding.

Alcohol: While it may not be so in your case, regrettably it is sometimes necessary to state that there is a strict **NO DRINKING POLICY WITH REGARD TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WEDDING PARTY.** No alcoholic beverages will be consumed by any member of the wedding party on the day of the wedding **PRIOR** to the service.

There can be no exception to this and any member of the wedding party found to have been drinking will be excused from the service.

Marriage in the State of Oregon

The clergy at All Saints' are licensed by the State of Oregon to officiate at weddings. It is the responsibility of the couple to procure a license in the county courthouse of either the bride or the groom's residence.

Marriage at All Saints' Church

It is the belief of All Saints' Episcopal Church that Christian marriage is entered into -- and lived out within -- a community of faith. It is therefore understood that the persons who wish to be married at All Saints' are active, committed parishioners either here or in the community of faith in which they live. The rector of this church has established policies and customs to assist couples at the beginning of their life-long covenant with God and with one another.

Restriction

It is within the discretion of any clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage.

Premarital Counseling

It is a requirement of the Episcopal Church that the Officiant (the clergy who is to perform the service) has ensured that the bride and groom have been instructed about the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony. In order to fulfill this requirement, **pre-marriage counseling is required** of couples wishing to be married at All Saints'.

Pre-marriage counseling consist of an initial meeting with the clergy, attending either **the Northwest Catholic Counseling Center or Samaritan Counseling Center sessions on marriage**, followed by three (3) sessions of pre-marital counseling with the rector of All Saints'. Exceptions may be made when one or both parties reside

Exceptions may be made when one or both parties reside outside the State of Oregon or at a great distance.

The counseling covers such topics as:

- the Church’s blessing – why seek it for your marriage?
- family and family dynamics
- communication
- sex
- children
- the use of time and money
- religious beliefs and what to do when differences occur.

In many cases, at the discretion of the clergy, additional pre-marriage counseling, with a professional marriage counselor, may be required.

The rector and the counselor work together in preparing the couple for marriage and therefore, maintain open communication regarding the progress of the pre-marital counseling. The couple will be required to sign a Release of Information between the rector and the counselor.

The cost of the pre-marriage communication workshop is determined by Premarital Workshops and is not a cost set by this parish. The pre-marital counseling sessions required by the Clergy, are provided by a licensed clinical social worker and fees are determined by the counselor. All costs are the responsibility of the couple seeking to be married; in cases where these costs pose severe financial hardship, financial aid can be applied for.

Ministry of Administration

An All Saints’ Wedding Consultant handles all administrative matters regarding weddings at All Saints’.

Fee Summary

	Member	Non-Member
Clergy	\$250	\$250
Discretionary Fund	<i>Optional</i>	<i>Optional</i>
Sexton	\$75	\$75
Wedding Consultant	\$75	\$75
Church Use Fee	\$0	\$250
Organist	\$150	\$150
Total	\$550	\$800

All the above forms and fees, as well as a completed marriage license must be received by the All Saints’ Wedding Consultant a minimum of two weeks before the wedding date.

Additional Details regarding the ceremony itself (use of ring bearers, flower girls, the availability of wedding bulletins, dressing rooms, etc., prohibitions on the use of a center aisle runner, rice or confetti, etc., the availability of the Parish Hall for receptions,) will be provided by All Saints' at the appropriate time.

When Is the Wedding Date Set?

Only after the premarital counseling has been initiated, a date has been checked with the Parish Calendar, and permission for the wedding has been granted.

a preliminary conference with the Director of Music Ministries of All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Ministry of Music

The All Saints' Director of Music Ministries normally provides all music for weddings at All Saints'. We strongly encourage the use of classical music and hymns from The Hymnal 1982. Additional music, musicians, soloists, etc., while appropriate, must be authorized by Director of Music Ministries and the All Saints' rector.

Ministry of the Altar Guild

The All Saints' Altar Guild provides one of its members as the Parish Wedding Consultant. This person, in cooperation with a team of devoted volunteers, is extremely knowledgeable about wedding protocol in general and All Saints' protocol in particular. The Parish Wedding Consultant will provide liturgical advice, and supervises and directs the logistics of the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony itself. It has been the experience at All Saints' that outside Wedding Coordinators are not necessary and are often, in fact, detrimental to the efficient planning and conduct of your wedding. They will not be permitted. Flowers used in the church are arranged by the All Saints' Altar Guild, in consultation with and in consideration of the preferences of the couple. Our volunteers are trained and experienced in providing floral arrangements appropriate to our liturgical space. Commercial florists may not provide arrangements used in any liturgical space.

Further Iteration for Scheduling a Wedding at All Saints'

When the bride or the groom is a Member of All Saints':

Active, regularly-attending members who have been known to the treasurer through a written financial pledge the previous year should watch the service bulletin and Bell Ringer for dates and times for the course "Getting To Know The Episcopal Church."

When neither the bride nor groom are Members of All Saints' but the *parents* of either the bride or the groom are:

If the parents of either the bride or the groom are regularly attending members who have been known to the treasurer through a written financial pledge the previous year, then the **first step** is for the couple themselves to determine if is the community of faith within which *they* intend to begin living out their marriage vows. If it is, then they are to contact the rector of All Saints' for an initial consultation *before* setting a date for the wedding.

If the couple does not live in or near the Portland area, then **the first step** is to make arrangements to comply with all the pre-marital counseling and other requirements of the church to which they belong. Early in that process, the clergy in charge of the couple's church should contact the clergy of All Saints' to coordinate logistics, because in such cases, the clergy of All Saints' will normally invite the couple's own clergy person to share in the wedding ceremony as a co-officiant.

When there is no relationship to All Saints', but the couple is active in another faith community:

While it is not possible for All Saints' to make its building available for couples who are simply interested in using the facilities on the day of their wedding, it is possible for a couple from another denomination to be married at All Saints' if the rector is to officiate.

When neither of the couple is currently an active member of any church:

Then the couple's first step is to find and join a community of faith in which they intend to live out their vows, and make arrangements to be married there. Please know that the clergy and people of All Saints' are happy to assist couples in their search for a church home.

Having understood and complied with the items above, the **next step** is to contact the All Saints' parish office in order to arrange an initial consultation with the rector. At this meeting, a program for the premarital communication workshop and premarital counseling counselor will be discussed and arranged, and a tentative wedding date will be discussed.

If a couple wishes to be married at All Saints' Church, then no wedding date may be announced, no invitations may be ordered, and no reception sites should be booked until the couple has had their initial consultation, a program of counseling and they have agreed to all of the above requirements.

The following policies and customs are supported by the following areas of ministry:

Clergy: An honorarium of \$250 is to be paid to the officiating clergy.

The Church's Discretionary Fund, which is used by the clergy in fulfilling their ministry in the community, is always an appropriate area for an additional gift made at the couple's discretion.

Flowers: A complete list of regulations regarding flowers will be made available at the appropriate time. Please consult the Wedding Consultant.

Sexton: In all cases, there is a \$75 fee for the Sexton, who is needed to open, unlock and prepare the church, and afterwards to clean the church in preparation for Sunday services, and to lock up. The check should be made payable to All Saints' Church with a notation in the memo field "Sexton Services".

Wedding Consultant: The fee for the services of the All Saints' Wedding Consultant is \$75. Duties include the coordination of the Altar Guild, the photographer, the florist, the organist, the preparation of the wedding bulletin and any and all functions as they relate to the ceremony at the All Saints'. The check should be made payable All Saints' Church with a notation in the memo portion of "Wedding Consultant."

Fees and Honoraria of the Church: There is no fee for use of the church by persons who are active worshipers at All Saints' Church and who have been known to the treasurer through a written financial pledge the previous year. For others, there is a \$250.00 fee for use of the Church, which is used for the continuing maintenance and mission of the Church. Checks are to be made payable to All Saints' Church.

Organist: The fee for the organist is \$150 (an additional \$75 per soloist, if soloists are involved). This fee includes