

# Preparing for the Celebration & Blessing of a Marriage

## Congratulations!

Your wedding is an important event. It is important to those taking the vows of Holy Matrimony, to your family, to the Church and the whole community. In this sacrament of the Church, sacred vows are exchanged and God blesses the couple as they begin their new life together.

## Getting started

By requesting to be married at here, you express a continuing commitment to be a part of this Christian community and the Episcopal Church at large. Although there may be exceptions, this means that the bride or groom is a pledging member of St. Paul's, or in the process of becoming a member, or that the parent(s) of either the bride or groom are active pledging members.

Our Rector may approve the wedding of a couple who are not members in special circumstances. In all instances, because weddings at St. Paul's are religious ceremonies and sacramental in nature, it is required that at least one member of the couple be baptized.

A call to the clergy is the first step. In most cases, 60 days from the time of the first meeting it is necessary to complete the premarital counseling and other arrangements for the wedding.

The Rector gives final approval to all requests (including dates) and assigns officiants for weddings. Please note that weddings are not held in Lent and are not scheduled for Sundays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Holy Week (the Saturday before Palm Sunday through Easter Day), and the weekend of Diocesan Convention (held in October). Weddings are not scheduled later than 6:30 p.m.

### Provisions in The Book of Common Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer is the foundation for all Episcopal worship services and provides the liturgical framework in which a wedding is celebrated. The service for The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is from this prayer book. In planning the ceremony, couples will be asked to choose from alternatives within the prayer book. Every faith community has its own traditions and we ask that ours be respected. Please understand that our prayer book does not make provisions for non-Episcopal traditions (such as a unity candle or vows written by the couple).

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## Marriage Preparation Team

*From start to finish, many people will be helping you along the way.*

**Officiating Priest:** Clergy of St. Paul's officiate at all weddings. In special circumstances, the Rector may invite other clergy



to assist or preach. A request for a particular priest should be made known at the initial inquiry meeting.

**Wedding Coordinator:** JoAnn Kumler will contact you within a few weeks of your wedding being scheduled to assist you with planning. Contact JoAnn at 253.2191 or [lkumler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkumler@sbcglobal.net).

**Counseling:** It is important to also develop a sound foundation for your ongoing marital relationship. The Episcopal Church requires its clergy to counsel with the prospective bride and groom on the meaning of Christian marriage. Counseling may be conducted by the Officiating Priest or another priest. Counseling generally requires a minimum of three sessions.

**Music:** Our music staff will work closely with you and serve as a valuable resource in selecting music for the wedding. Staff organists play at all weddings unless other arrangements are approved. See the Wedding Music brochure for detailed information and fees. Before planning music for your wedding, please contact Frank Boles, Associate for Music, ext 30 or [fboles@stpaulsindy.org](mailto:fboles@stpaulsindy.org).

**Florist:** Floral arrangements should enhance, but not dominate, the worship service. Your florist is asked to work with the Wedding Coordinator and abide by our guidelines concerning size and placement of arrangements. Please note that only fresh flowers are to be used for Altar arrangements. Aisle candles are available; they may be placed down the length of the center aisle and decorated with flowers or bows. Aisle runners are not used. No real flower petals may be dropped as part of the procession (they stain the floor).

**Assistant for Liturgy & Music:** Marilyn Vargo will assist with your marriage certificate and service bulletins. Bulletins for the liturgy are prepared by the church after the couple has finalized their choice of readings and music. A draft bulletin is shared with the couple to confirm it accurately reflects the service as planned.



Your wedding license must be brought to Marilyn at least 14 days prior to the wedding to ensure proper recording of your marriage. A marriage certificate will be ready for you immediately after the ceremony. Contact Marilyn at ext 12 or [mvargo@stpaulsindy.org](mailto:mvargo@stpaulsindy.org).

**Photographer & Videographer:** We work to maintain a joyful and sacred atmosphere in the wedding service. Professional photographers understand this, and they will agree to minimize distractions and respect the sacred nature of the building and of the liturgy. Flash photography at any time during the service is not allowed. Professional photos may also be taken either before or after the service. It is helpful to start two hours before the service begins. If you choose to take photos after the ceremony, you should plan to complete these 45 minutes following the service.

Professional videotaping of your wedding is permitted from the rear of the church. Special lighting may not be used, and the videographer should remain at a stationary tripod. It may be helpful for your videographer to attend the rehearsal to become acquainted with the space.

The photographer/videographer should work under the direction of the Wedding Coordinator, and it is important that they consult with her before the rehearsal.

*Note: Please inform guests that, except for the professional you retain, taking pictures or shooting video is not allowed during the wedding liturgy. This request will also be included in your bulletin.*

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** If Communion is part of the service, Lay Eucharistic Ministers will be secured by the church.

**Ushers:** Ushers assure that the congregation is seated in a timely manner, help fill the church from front to back, and seat the families of the bride and groom. It is not our practice to separate those attending the wedding by seating them on a particular side of the church based on their relationship with the bride or groom. One usher for every 50 guests is sufficient. The bride and groom choose the ushers.

**About your Wedding Rehearsal:** The purpose of a rehearsal is to help you and your party be more comfortable on the day of your wedding. Rehearsals normally take place the evening before the wedding. Every effort should be made to have the entire party present, including readers, so that the rehearsal may start on time. Most rehearsals take less than one hour.

## Facilities

**Church:** St. Paul's main sanctuary can seat up to 500 guests. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd can seat 35 guests.

**Receptions:** There are several spaces available for a reception. The Lilly Room is a formal environment with a full kitchen and is located in the Church building. It can accommodate approximately 60 people. Adjacent to the Lilly Room is the Roberts Library. It may be used independently or it may be added to the Lilly Room to enlarge the space. The Parish Hall, located in the Parish Center building, is a less formal meeting space with a full kitchen and can accommodate approximately 150 people for a sit down dinner. The Garth is a nice venue for smaller outdoor receptions.

St. Paul's permits alcohol, but there are specific policies regarding its use, which will be provided if you are considering having a reception here. To secure the use of any facilities for a reception, contact Marilyn Vargo, ext 12 or [mvargo@stpaulsindy.org](mailto:mvargo@stpaulsindy.org).

**Sexton:** A sexton is provided by the church for necessary custodial services, to prepare the church before the service and to clean up after your wedding or reception. This fee is included in the flat rate wedding charge.

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## Wedding Fees & Room Rates

**Pledging Members:** This fee covers expenses otherwise borne by the church such as Wedding Coordinator, Sexton, bulletins, aisle candles and counseling assessment fee. **\$500**

**Non-Members:** For non-member weddings that are approved by the Rector, the basic wedding fee of \$500 will be charged plus a \$750 church usage fee. **\$1250**

**Receptions:** Lilly Room: \$300 / Parish Hall: \$500 / Roberts Library: \$150 / Garth: \$300

**Honorarium for Priest:** This is at the discretion of the couple. All honoraria are placed in the Clergy Discretionary Fund which is used for charitable and religious purposes.

**St. Paul's Music Fees:** Please see the Music Fee brochure.

**All fees are billed by St. Paul's. Payment is due 30 days prior to the wedding. Send payments to the attention of Marilyn Vargo.**