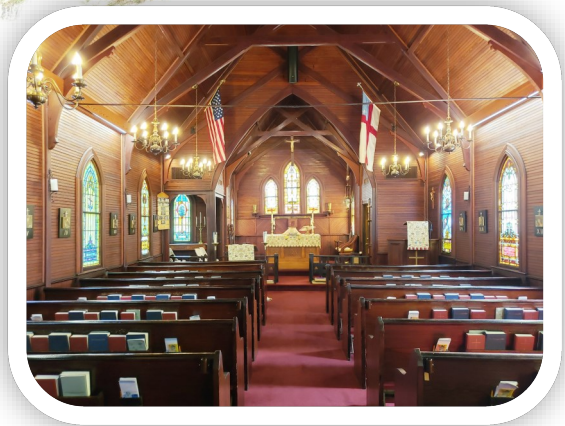


Wedding Customary



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA

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WEDDING CUSTOMARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

[The Book of Common Prayer, 431]

INTRODUCTION

Whenever we come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of a couple in Holy Matrimony, it is an occasion of great joy in the life of the Church and of the couple. Christian marriage is a sacrament of the Church between two persons publicly promise and vow before God and the Church to live with one another in a life-long union of marriage and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows. This manner of life, which is a bond and covenant that was established by God in creation, was celebrated by our Lord Jesus Christ by His being present and performing His first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

The couple is the ministers of the sacrament in a marriage service. The priest officiates and pronounces God's blessing on them and their relationship, but the couple is the ones who proclaim the covenant. It is in their lives that the sacrament is lived out, that mutual joy comes from living lives which share the image of God's love, and that companionship evolves through helping and comforting each other in prosperity and adversity.

The Church distinguishes between a wedding, which is a one day event, and a marriage which is intended to be a life-long union of body, mind and spirit where the couple is bound together in mutual love and faithfulness.

A wedding is an occasion which requires a great deal of preparation. The purpose of this Wedding Customary is to assist the couple in the orderly preparation of their wedding day, so that their focus may be directed toward Christian marriage. It is our desire at All Saints' to assist persons as they plan for their wedding. Our expectation is that the preparation time will be a period of growth in the understanding of Christian marriage and that the service itself will be a witness to our belief that marriage was instituted by God. For God does bless those who make a sacred covenant with one another in His name before His altar. It is our hope that the information contained in this customary will answer as many questions as possible in planning your marriage service. We trust that

these guidelines will assist you in your preparation for a prayerful and meaningful marriage celebration. With the assistance of the clergy, worship ministry, and office staff of this faith community, you will have a memorable experience on your wedding day here at All Saints’.

THE DAY

At All Saints’, we try to schedule weddings at the time and date that meets the desires of the couple. However, the definitive date and time for a wedding shall not be set before scheduling through the Office Manager at the Church Office who, in turn, will check for calendar update and the Rector’s availability. An announcement shall not be sent out until approval is given by the Rector. This allows flexibility for counseling and avoids disappointment and embarrassment if the date chosen is not possible. No plans may be considered final until the Rector has agreed to them.

THE TIME

Weddings may not begin earlier than 9:00 a.m. and any later than 7:00 p.m. Except for unusual circumstances weddings are not usually celebrated in the Episcopal Church during the season of Lent. While social custom clearly prefers Saturday weddings, there are no theological or liturgical reasons to prefer one day over another. However, generally, weddings are not scheduled on Sundays, except with the Rector’s approval, or on New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

THE SETTING

Except for an extraordinary circumstance, the Church building shall be used for all marriage services at All Saints’. The Church building also provides the proper solemnity for the celebration of this sacrament.

REQUIREMENTS

The Episcopal Church requires that at least thirty (30) days’ notice be given before the proposed date of the marriage. It is also required that the couple agrees to a Declaration of Intention (*see Appendix B*) and arrange for premarital counseling. At All Saints’, we require at least four (4) to six (6) months notification so as to allow for effective preparation. We advise that you contact the Church Office as soon as you begin to plan your wedding. Initially, the Rector customarily either meets in person, has a telephone conversation or an electronic meeting (*e.g. via Zoom*) with the couple.

The Episcopal Church also requires that one of the partners be a baptized person. At All Saints', we recommend, if possible, that both persons be baptized and this can be facilitated by the Church Office.

At All Saints', a couple that is preparing for marriage is expected to participate in the life and worship of the Church. It is hoped that the couple will continue to do so after their wedding. Such a commitment allows the members of the Church to support the vows of newly married couples with faithfulness and integrity in the context of a faith community.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

The Episcopal Church believes that adequate preparation is an important part of a marriage. Accordingly, an Episcopal priest is required to meet with the couple for premarital counseling as part of the preparation for marriage, examining "the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony." This may be a time for clergy to answer questions regarding the wedding service but our intention is to spend most of this time together discussing marriage. The couple, therefore, must agree to meet with the Rector for pre-marital counseling in order to be married at All Saints'. Normally, premarital counseling takes at least four sessions.

REMARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS

In the Episcopal Church it is necessary for any priest to apply for and receive the Bishop's consent prior to officiating at a marriage in which either or both of the parties has been divorced from a spouse who is still alive. The couple does not need the Bishop's permission to get married; the priest celebrating the wedding will need to have the Bishop's permission to officiate at the service. This procedure is done in consultation with the officiating clergy and since the Bishop takes this responsibility seriously, an additional sixty (60) days may be necessary for him to consider the request and to make his decision. Wedding plans with the Church are tentative until permission is received from the Bishop.

In cases where a previous marriage (or marriages) is involved, it will be necessary to have copies of all relevant divorce decrees and an application form will need to be completed. Unless there are extreme justifiable circumstances, it is normative that there is at least a year between the date of the final divorce decree and the date of the wedding.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

All weddings at All Saints' are celebrated according to the rites provided in the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church. The Holy Eucharist is the central act of worship in the Christian Church. It is most appropriate to have it as the first act of the newly wedded couple to join with family and friends in this sacrament. Therefore, the normal Marriage Service for communicants of the Episcopal Church is the "Nuptial Eucharist" although it is not required. All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Blessed Sacrament (communion) at every celebration of the Eucharist at All Saints' Church. Arrangements for a Eucharistic Minister to assist in administration of the Communion are made. This could be a special and honored role for a friend or family member who has been trained in this ministry. The Altar Guild is responsible for the preparation of the altar for a Nuptial Eucharist.

The Order of the Marriage Service inclusive of hymns, psalm, biblical readings, and music is to be arranged with the Rector. If there is a service booklet or bulletin, it is to be approved by the Rector prior to final printing.

THE OFFICIATING CLERGY

The officiating clergyman of a wedding at All Saints' Church is normally the Rector. Other members of the clergy (family members or friends of the couple, or clerics of the Episcopal Church or of other Christian denominations), may be invited by the Rector of this Church to assist in or, in special cases, conduct the service, with the approval of the Rector. The request for the participation of other Episcopal clergy or denominational ministers should be discussed with the Rector during the initial meeting.

LECTORS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

In our tradition, there is always at least one reading from the Bible to set the marriage in the context of the Word of God. The Scripture readings, recommended in the Book of Common Prayer, are on the following page. Old Testament readings precede the New Testament readings followed by the Gospel. If another Scripture reading, different to the ones that are recommended, or a reading is desired from another source, it must be approved by the Rector. It is most appropriate, and normally encouraged, to have friends or family members read the biblical lessons and the psalm. Please note that if there is to be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Communion), a reading from one of the Gospels is always done by a clergy person.

SCRIPTURE READING SELECTIONS

For a Nuptial Eucharist (*Wedding Service with Communion*), you may choose three (3) scripture readings to be read during your marriage service: one Old Testament reading, one New Testament reading, and one Gospel reading.

If you choose to have a Service without communion, you may make two (2) selections: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament or Gospel.

The Scripture readings recommended for a Marriage Service are listed below. Please select one (1) choice from each group:

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

Tobit 8:5*b*-8

New Testament

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 4:7-16

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

John 15:9-12

***The Scriptural readings are to be taken from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).***

MUSIC

Weddings at All Saints' are usually accompanied by music which is joyful and uplifting. It is believed that a couple who is desirous of being married in this Church subscribes to the style of worship and musical traditions associated with All Saints'. Each wedding ceremony is considered individually in order to select music which reflects the unique quality of the occasion. Regardless to the type of wedding, the music should be suitable for a religious service. All music used before, during, and after the Service, whether instrumental, organ, congregational or solo singing, shall be approved by the Organist and the Rector.

MUSICIANS

The Organist of All Saints' Church will normally play at all weddings although additional musicians and vocalists are permitted. Only under special circumstances may other musicians replace the Organist. Permission for such must be granted by the Rector, having notified the Organist.

The Organist is willing to assist in planning wedding music which is both beautiful and appropriate for use in the Episcopal Church. A consultation with her should be arranged as early in the planning stages of the wedding as possible. She will discuss music possibilities with the couple and advise them. The following points are to be observed:

1. The Marriage Service or the Nuptial Eucharist is a sacred service and all music and texts are to be avoided that are not theologically appropriate.
2. The final decision on the appropriateness of music resides with the Rector in consultation with the Organist.
3. Soloists and/or instrumentalists are expected to contact the Organist at least three weeks prior to the service and make necessary arrangements for rehearsals.

Please call the Church Office at 772.334.0610, and you may leave a message for the Organist to set up an appointment.

FLOWERS

Floral arrangements made in accordance with parish policy are permitted in the sanctuary. Flowers at the altar are the responsibility of the couple. The couple may choose the color and types of flowers for these floral arrangements. However, **flowers are not to be removed from the altar area after the wedding.** The donation of the flowers as a thank offering from the couple is recognized in the Sunday bulletin. The Church building may be

decorated with other floral arrangements which are arranged by the couple's florist. These flowers may be removed from the Church building after the wedding.

If the Parish is decorated for a special event or season, such as Christmas or Easter, such decorations and flowers may not be removed. Any other questions concerning the decorating of the Church building for the wedding should be addressed to the Altar Guild Leaders.

CANDLES

The candles on the altar are lit at all times during the celebration of a marriage. A couple, having first made a request to the Altar Guild Leaders, may use the pew candles in the aisle of the Church building. These candles are furnished by the Church. The use of a Unity Candle is optional in the marriage service of our Church. All candles at the altar are extinguished at the conclusion of the Service.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

We appreciate the desire of the couple and their families to have photographs commemorating their wedding, but it should be remembered that the wedding is a sacred worship service. Our intention is to insure that the visual record reflects and preserves the sacredness of the occasion. As a result, the following is appreciated:

- A flash photo of the couple as they process down the aisle with their attendants and/or presenters and one of the couple leaving the Church building are permitted, but no taking of pictures by guests during the service is allowed. Ushers should inform any persons bringing cameras into the Church building of this policy. Pictures, without flash, may be taken by the professional photographer reverently and discreetly during the service but not during prayers or the Eucharistic Prayer (if the service is a Nuptial Eucharist).
- The couple's official photographer shall meet with the Rector prior to the Service for instructions about when and where pictures may be taken. The photographer is welcomed to attend the rehearsal at which time he or she may meet with the Rector.
- Photographs may be taken of the couple, the wedding party, and family before and after the marriage service. Photography prior to the service should end at least fifteen (15) minutes before the start time of the service in order for the wedding to begin on time. The couple and the photographer are asked to use their discretion in

terms of the length of photography after the service inside of the Church building since preparation for Sunday services needs to be done.

- Video recordings are allowed if made by a videographer who has been approved by the Rector. He or she shall meet with the Rector prior to the Service for instructions about video recordings in the Church building. Video recording is usually done from the balcony. The videographer is welcomed to attend the rehearsal at which time he or she may meet with the Rector.

Photographs during the rehearsal or marriage service may only be taken with the Rector's or officiating clergy's permission. If approval has been granted, those taking the photos are to remain in the nave. Under no circumstances are photos be taken from in the sanctuary (in the immediate area of the altar).

FURNITURE

Sanctuary – No furnishings in the sanctuary are to be moved or removed for any reason except under the direction of the Rector.

Ceremonial – The Altar Guild will arrange for other furnishings, such as a table for the signing of the license and certificate, or a table on which to place a unity candle or vessels for a sand ceremony, and cushions for kneeling to be provided for the ceremony.

Other Furnishings – Pew markers of ribbons and greenery are allowed in the Church building, if desired. They are to be attached in such a way that they do not damage the pews. The pews are not to be decorated in any way that could cause damage of any kind. No tape, tacks, wire or abrasive materials are to be used on the furniture.

THE REHEARSAL

The purpose of the rehearsal is to prepare the Wedding Party to participate in the service in such a way as to render praise to God and joy to the couple.

The time for the wedding rehearsal should be determined in consultation with the Rector. Rehearsals are normally scheduled between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the evening preceding the wedding. The rehearsal is under the sole direction of the Rector. If a member of the clergy other than the Rector is the officiant, the Rector will generally be present at the rehearsal. Any further assistance which the officiating clergy need is supplied by the Altar Guild representative.

All members of the Wedding Party (the couple, attendants, presenters, ushers, ring bearer

(s), and flower girl(s) if there are to be any), and the photographer and videographer, are expected to be at the rehearsal. Wedding consultants and planners, and/or florists are not needed at either the rehearsal or the wedding. They are, of course, welcome to attend to the bride and her needs before the wedding. If a wedding consultant is utilized, she/he should understand that she/he will work under the direction of the Rector and Altar Guild Leaders.

It is expected that every effort will be made by the members of the wedding party to be on time for the rehearsal and to maintain reverence while in the Church building. The rehearsal normally takes about one hour.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A Florida State marriage license is the instrument that gives the member of the clergy the authority of the state to officiate at the marriage service and to sign the license making the marriage official in the eyes of the state. **Without a marriage license, the priest cannot perform the wedding; it is illegal to do so.** As a result, arrangements for the marriage license should be made with the Martin County Courthouse no earlier than thirty (30) days prior to the wedding and no later than three(3) before the wedding. It is recommended that the couple acquire the license well in advance of the ceremony. It is also mandatory that the couple acquire the license together at the County Courthouse.

At All Saints', we recommend that the marriage license should be brought to the Church Office at least seven (7) days prior to the wedding, together with the Church fees. It is the responsibility of the Rector or the officiating clergy to complete the license and return it to the County Courthouse.

FEES

Fees are set according to the policies of the Church. Please contact the Church Office to obtain the fee schedule.

ORDER OF SERVICE BOOKLETS/BULLETINS

Personalized Order of Service booklets/bulletins may be printed for the marriage service by the Church Office. These are particularly helpful at a Nuptial Eucharist and provide a meaningful memento for your guests. The cost of fifty copies of the service booklet or bulletin is included in the Church's fees. However, further copies will be at an additional cost. Please make arrangements early with the Office Manager. Couples who are desirous

of printing their own service booklet or bulletin may obtain a template of the Order of Service with or without the Eucharist from the Office Manager, however, the Church's cost remains the same. The Rector's approval of the service booklet or bulletin is required prior to final printing.

INVITATION INFORMATION

All Saints' Episcopal Church has a maximum seating capacity of **160**. We are located at:
2303 Northeast Seaview Drive, Jensen Beach, Florida, 34957.

DRESSING AREAS

The couple and their attendants may dress at another location and then arrive at the Church building. However, the Parish Hall is made available for the couple and their attendants to dress prior to the wedding. If the Parish Hall is to be used by the wedding party for dressing, persons are expected to be ready at least ten (10) minutes before the start of the Service. If couples plan to dress at another location, they are reminded to arrive in adequate time before the Service in order that the Marriage Service can begin on time.

Please note that dressing room facilities can be made available in the Parish Hall with thirty (30) days' notice.

THE USHERS

The ushers should arrive at least one (1) hour before the start of the Service. Ushers will assist the guests to find proper seats in the Church building, giving them an Order of Service booklet or bulletin, if available. They should be given, prior to the service, the names of any persons (relatives, friends, etc.) who should be seated in a special place.

Before the commencement of the Service, two ushers shall escort the parents of the bride and groom into the Church building.

Ushers are expected to attend the rehearsal.

OTHER WEDDING POLICIES

Decorations: Decorating for weddings should be done in such a way that the Church building can easily be made ready for Sunday services. Decorations are not to overshadow

or obscure the altar, impede the flow of the service, or block the entrance or exit of the pews.

Flower Petals, Rice, Confetti, Bird Seeds, etc. – A designated flower girl may scatter a modest amount of petals in the aisle or path of the couple as they enters. To avoid undue mess, the family is asked to mention to guests and friends that rice and confetti and the like are not to be thrown in the Church building or on church grounds. Your wedding party may throw bird seeds but only outside in the garden of the Church campus.

Smoking is prohibited – No smoking is allowed in the Church building.

Clean Up – The couple's florist or designated person must be on hand immediately following the wedding service to remove the decorations.

RECEPTIONS

If you would like to have your reception at All Saints', we would be delighted to have you use our facilities. Houg Hall (Parish Hall) is available to be reserved for receptions. Please contact the Office Manager in the Church Office for the fee schedule, terms of rental and to make reservations. A separate facility policy may be received from the Church Office if the couple is desirous of having their wedding reception in Houg Hall.

POST-MARITAL COUNSELING

It is recommended that couples being married at All Saints' plan to meet with the Rector or Priest who counseled them for marriage at a point after their wedding. This will give all involved a chance to evaluate the state of the marriage and to undergo any additional counseling needed to insure a healthy marriage.

OTHER SERVICES

In addition to the Wedding Service, the Episcopal Church provides a number of related services which may be of interest.

THE BLESSING OF A CIVIL MARRIAGE – A Service for persons who were not originally married in the Church building and who would like the blessing of the Church on their marriage.

THE RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS – A Service for persons who would like to renew the vows of their marriage at an appropriate time in their relationship. Examples of appropriate times for this Service would be a major anniversary or at the time of a reconciliation in a marriage after a separation.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD – A Service to be used in the Church on the first Sunday a couple and their new-born are able to be present at worship. It is also possible to have this Service in the hospital.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD – A Service to be used in the Church on the first Sunday a couple and their new adopted child is able to be present at worship.

CONTACT PERSONS

Rector

The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder
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Organist

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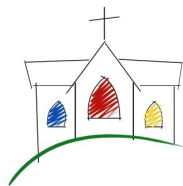
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