



Wedding Policies

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Wedding Policies

The Episcopal Church holds that “Christian marriage is a solemn covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God.” The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage according to the Book of Common Prayer is a solemn and holy occasion in which a man and woman enter into covenant with one another in the name of God to live together as husband and wife. The emphasis upon the covenant relationship as opposed to legal contract underscores the high seriousness with which the Church addresses marriage. It calls for the same kind of “mystical union” enjoyed by God and His people Israel and by Christ and His Church. It 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.” (BCP, page 423) The worshipping community joins them to witness and support them and to celebrate this moment with them.

As with all services at the Chapel of the Cross, weddings are performed in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the guidance of The Book of Common Prayer, and the policies of the Chapel of the Cross.

The celebration of Eucharist is always appropriate at an Episcopal wedding, and our clergy urges you to consider it. The Lord’s Table is open to all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination. Some couples, particularly if they expect a large number of guests who would not receive communion, prefer to have a private celebration of Eucharist for the wedding party after the wedding rehearsal. This can be arranged with prior notice.

This information has been written to explain those policies, to answer questions and to assist you in planning your wedding. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to speak with a Priest or the Wedding Guild Chairman.

Scheduling a Wedding

The date for the wedding must be confirmed with the parish coordinator. A fee of \$250 is due at the time the date is reserved. A wedding date cannot be confirmed until approval by a Priest.

Because of the considerable preparation involved for the principal feasts and fasts of the liturgical year, the Chapel is not available for weddings on:

- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Palm Sunday or the Saturday preceding
- Any day of Holy Week
- Easter Sunday
- Thanksgiving Day
- New Year’s Eve
- New Year’s Day

Marriage at Chapel of the Cross

All weddings at the Chapel of the Cross are celebrated solely at the discretion of the priest. It is the policy of the Chapel that weddings are limited to members of the Chapel of the Cross and their immediate families. Weddings are conducted by the rector or the rector’s designee in accordance with The Book of Common Prayer and the customs of the Chapel.

All discussions regarding weddings at the Chapel of the Cross begin with a conference with one of the priests. The first step is to contact the parish secretary to make an appointment with the priest to discuss the wedding and to plan for premarital counseling. Both partners need to be present for this initial meeting. It is best to wait until approval from the priest before announcing a date.

Canonical requirements leave a great deal of leeway, but there are some restrictions that must be taken into account.

- At least one member of the couple must be a baptized Christian.
- At least two witnesses must be present.
- The couple must have been prepared for Holy Matrimony by a suitable premarital counseling program.
- The couple must attest that they freely and knowingly consent to the marriage and that they hold marriage to be “a lifelong union of husband and wife as set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by the Church.”
- All laws of the state must be honored.
- Barring emergency circumstances of a parishioner well known to him, the priest acting as officiant requires at least 30 days notice of the wedding.

Once it has been ascertained that plans can proceed, it is time for the bride to contact the Wedding Guild Chairman to discuss the needs and preferences of the bride and groom for their wedding. The Wedding Guild Chairman will guide and support the couple and their families until the ceremony is completed. All questions about the actual wedding should be addressed to the Wedding Guild Chair. No outside coordinators or consultants are permitted.

Remarriage After Divorce

If either party to the proposed marriage has ever been married, the priest may not proceed with a wedding without the Bishop’s written consent. This process can take up to 60 days, and as the Bishop’s consent is not to be taken for granted, no date may be set until such authorization has been received. If one partner has been husband or wife to any other living person, a certified copy of the divorce decree must be provided to the priest conducting the counseling.

Premarital Counseling

The Episcopal Church requires that both persons being married be “instructed as to the nature, meaning and purpose of Holy Matrimony.” This involves a minimum of three premarital conversations, which will be arranged by the couple in consultation with the officiating priest. Premarital counseling may vary somewhat according to the needs of the couple and the methods of the priest. Normally, the first counseling sessions should be arranged at least two months prior to the wedding. Suitable counseling prior to the wedding is not optional. Therefore, the wedding may not take place without it.

The Wedding Party

Because of the intimacy of the Chapel, the bridal party may consist of no more than 5 bridesmaids and the Maid of Honor and 5 groomsmen and the Best Man.

Two ushers will be needed in addition to the groomsmen. They will be instructed by the wedding director.

The Chapel will provide a verger, crucifer, and if communion is celebrated, a chalice bearer. Only those who are trained and serve at the Chapel may be used for the wedding.

We strongly recommend that all participants be at least 5 years old. The Chapel cannot be responsible for the behavior of any member of the wedding party. We are unable to provide child care services during the ceremony or reception.

The couple will need to choose three readings from the Bible, one each from the Old Testament, New Testament and the Gospels. The Gospel will be read by the priest. The couple will need to designate readers for the Old Testament and New Testament readings. The couple may also choose a Psalm.

The couple may also designate someone to read the Prayers for the couple.

Up to three pews may be reserved on each side for family members. Pew markers may be floral or the lace markers owned by the church.

Marriage License

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to obtain a valid marriage license and to present it to the officiating priest at the time of the wedding rehearsal. No ceremony can take place without a license.

Wedding Rehearsal

Wedding rehearsals are held no later than 6:00 pm on the evening before the wedding. Rehearsals will begin at the appointed time and usually last about one hour. Everyone participating in the wedding ceremony must attend. Please impress upon all participants the need for promptness, as the rehearsal cannot begin until all are present. Everyone will practice the role he or she will have in the wedding, including the bride. The priest and wedding guild chairman will conduct the rehearsal.

Floral Arrangements and Other Decorations

Flowers for a wedding are similar to those used for other worship occasions during the season in which a wedding takes place. Certainly, though a wedding is cause for celebration, it does not overshadow the church's celebration of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost seasons. Again, the primary consideration is to the appropriateness of decorations as they contribute to worship and that they do not detract from the liturgical ceremony.

The wedding guild chairman will initiate contact between the bride and flower guild chairman. Flowers used at the altar and in the church will be arranged by members of the flower guild. Do not engage a florist to assist with the decorations in the Chapel. However, a florist should be used to provide bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres, and any flowers for the reception. It is necessary for the bride and groom to make arrangements for these.

The flower fee includes two arrangements on the altar, one arrangement in the narthex and two pew markers. The six side windows in the forward of the Chapel may be decorated only for evening weddings at an additional fee. Also, a single arrangement in the back of the church can be added at an additional fee. The flower fee must be paid one month prior to the ceremony or flowers cannot be ordered. At some times, fees may be higher due to the season and the availability of the flowers or special requests by the bride.

Flower Fees

Two altar arrangements,
one arrangement in the narthex and
two pew markers **\$500**

One additional arrangement
in the back of the church **\$100**

Six window arrangements
(evening weddings only) **\$200**

Floral Arrangements and Other Decorations *continued*

General Guidelines: The customary color of wedding flowers is white. The altar guild has lace pew markers if that is preferred over floral markers. Wedding flowers are a contribution to the worship of the church and remain in place for the next services following the wedding. We can arrange for the Sunday bulletin to announce an appropriate memorial or thanksgiving. No artificial flowers may be used. No single pots of plants or flowers may be used. We request that no rice, seeds, confetti, flowers or other objects be thrown on the church premises because of safety hazards and clean-up problems they pose.

During certain seasons of the church year, special arrangements are used. These will also be used for weddings during those seasons. During Lent, the focus of the church is on spiritual growth and penitence, therefore, weddings in the church are not customary between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day. However, with the permission of the Rector, a wedding may be performed during Lent, provided that it must be a Lenten wedding. The purple or Lenten hangings will remain in place and only greenery – no flowers – may be used. The priest and wedding guild chairman will be able to address these issues.

Music

After meeting with the rector and setting a wedding date, the couple should schedule a wedding music consultation with the Organist/Choirmaster. This consultation should occur before making any specific plans for music, additional musicians or soloists.

The Organist/Choirmaster will assist the couple with planning all music for the wedding. Once the music is planned, the Organist/Choirmaster will be responsible for the music and securing any guest musicians needed. With this responsibility comes the duty of expressing the policies of the Chapel of the Cross in regard to the use of music in worship services. These policies were designed not to limit, but rather to insure the quality and integrity of musical selections, aspiring to the music of the highest caliber and insuring the competency of all involved. The theological and musical substance of any work of music must therefore meet certain criteria.

This is one of the most significant and joyous events of one's life. It is therefore fitting that it should be celebrated with appropriately joyful music. In general, the music should be consistent with the accepted standards of the Episcopal Church. The Book of Common Prayer states that hymns referred to in the rubrics of this Book are to be understood as those authorized by this Church. The words of anthems or solos are to be from Holy Scripture or from this Book or from texts congruent with them. On occasion, and as appropriate, instrumental music may be substituted for a hymn or anthem.

Weddings at the Chapel of the Cross are liturgical ceremonies generally held within the context of the Eucharist. A rich variety of music, therefore, is used, including organ music, congregational hymns, a psalm and the service music sung by the congregation. Choral anthems and vocal or instrumental solos may also be used.

The organist will select the music from the standard repertory before the ceremony. If there is a request, the organist will try to honor it, if possible and appropriate. The choice of the wedding marches for the processional and recessional will be made in consultation with the organist.

The Organist/Choirmaster of the Chapel will always play for weddings held in the church. In the event the incumbent organist is unable to play for the wedding due to unavailability or schedule conflicts, he will still handle the planning of music and the preparation of materials for the service booklet. He will book an organist to play for the wedding service in his absence.

It has become increasingly popular to include an instrumentalist(s) such as a trumpet, violin, string quartet, etc., in the wedding ceremony. This adds a certain luster, especially to the processional and recessional and prelude music. If this is desired, it can be arranged by the organist. These professional musicians are of the highest caliber and book engagements several months in advance. Therefore, it is usually necessary to confirm the wedding date with them as soon as possible. In the event of cancellation, their fees must still be paid, as they have very likely refused other engagements for the same day/time.

A vocal soloist may also be used as part of the wedding music. In this event, care must be taken to avoid the secular or sentimental songs. "The Lord's Prayer" is not used as a solo because it is a corporate prayer, and therefore, unsuitable to be sung by a single person. If desired, a vocal soloist can be arranged for by the organist.

The Chapel Choir may be used for weddings. Using the choir supports the congregation in singing hymns, psalms and service music for the wedding. This is very helpful for most weddings, especially when many wedding guests are not Episcopalians. The choir can also present anthems appropriate for the celebration and blessing of a marriage. If the couple wishes to use the Chapel Choir for their wedding, the Organist/Choirmaster will make the necessary arrangements. If there are not enough volunteer singers available on the date of the wedding, the Organist/Choirmaster will notify the couple and discuss the possibility of using additional, professional singers. If the couple wishes to use professional singers for the wedding, the Organist/Choirmaster will hire the singers. The couple will be responsible for the payment of these singers.

A couple who desires a choir for their wedding should be aware that it is often difficult to arrange for enough singers (volunteer and professional) on holiday weekends; this should be taken into account in selecting the wedding date. In addition, couples with specific requests for choral music may need to consider utilizing professional singers, depending on the level of difficulty of the music selected. The Organist/Choirmaster will advise the couple in this case.

The purpose of the music is to beautify and adorn your wedding. It is the aim of the Chapel of the Cross to make your wedding memorable and unique.

Fees are charged because of the great amount of time and effort required to provide professional-level music for a wedding. All fees should be paid no later than one month before the wedding.

Music Fees

Basic Wedding \$200

The fee includes meeting to plan music, preparing musical materials for the wedding service booklet, arranging for and rehearsing with the cantor and playing organ music for the wedding.

Wedding with one or two additional soloists and/or Chapel Choir \$250

The fee includes everything listed under "Basic Wedding," as well as planning and rehearsal time with the instrumental soloists, vocal soloists, and/or Chapel Choir.

Wedding with three or four additional soloists and Chapel Choir \$300

The fee includes everything listed under "Basic Wedding," as well as planning and rehearsal time with instrumental soloists, vocal soloists, and/or Chapel Choir.

Photography

Photographs of the wedding party and families may be taken in the church before the service, and must be completed at least 45 minutes before the scheduled service time. Photographs may also be taken after the wedding. If you wish to have a photograph with the officiating priest, be sure to ask him to remain after the service. No photography – either with or without flash – or videography is allowed during the wedding service. The photographer may take photographs (without flash) from the entrance to the church as the bride and groom are leaving the church.

Please understand that due to the size and configuration of the Chapel a photographer during the service would be a distraction for all concerned. Therefore, please do not place your photographer in an untenable position by asking him or her to do something that has not been approved by the wedding guild chairman.

Reception

The David Christian Hall may be reserved for a wedding reception. All arrangements for a reception at the church must be discussed and planned with the wedding guild chairman. The hall must be reserved with the parish secretary. The fee for this is \$250 and is due at the initial time of reservation. There is also a sexton fee when receptions are held at the church. This fee is \$100 and is paid directly to the sexton.

Receptions may be held in the parish hall and the grassy area immediately in front of the parish house. A caterer must meet with the wedding guild chairman before the wedding. The caterer will provide all china, silverware, glassware, linens, and other equipment, as well as all service personnel for the reception. The sexton is not available to assist the caterer. The church provides only reception space, tables, and chairs. The kitchen is available only for serving pre-prepared foods. The caterer is responsible for cleaning the kitchen and parish hall. Trash is to be bagged and ready for disposal by the sexton. Cleanup must be completed and the parish hall vacated by 10:00 pm. An additional fee of \$150 per hour will be added after that time.

If a reception is to be held in the parish hall, the wedding guild is to be advised of all arrangements, including, caterer, music, and decorations. Flowers for a reception are not provided by the flower guild. The bride and groom will have to engage outside services for these. Nothing can be nailed to the walls of the parish hall.

Wedding guests should be welcomed into the reception as soon as the ceremony ends. If the hosts will be detained in the church and unable to greet guests, arrangements should be made for someone else to do so. The wedding guild chairman does not direct the reception.

Additional guidelines: No rice, seeds, confetti, flowers, or other objects are to be thrown as the couple depart. All chapel buildings are smoke free. Personal items of value should not be left unattended before or during the ceremony or reception. The Chapel cannot be responsible for items left by guests, members of the bridal party, the caterer, florist, band, or rental company.

Alcohol may be served at receptions held in the parish hall. No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed before the wedding.

Reception *continued*

All service of alcoholic beverages must comply with the official guidelines of the Diocese of Mississippi:

The Episcopal Church has never taken a stance endorsing the prohibition of the use of beverages containing alcohol among her members. To the contrary, the Church has recognized that Scripture sanctions alcoholic beverages as a gift from God and that the Lord Himself dignified the use and serving of alcoholic beverages in His first miracle at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) and in the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Responsible use of “wine that maketh glad the heart of man” (Psalm 104:15) is, in fact, one of the elements of the freedom of those who are in Christ.

However, the Episcopal Church also recognizes that where there is a potential for good, there is also a potential for evil. Alcoholism is an illness, which has reached epidemic proportions in our own society and culture; and for that reason, it is imperative that the members of the Church use the same prudence regarding the use and serving of alcoholic beverages that they would in handling any other potentially dangerous drug. Although the social use of beverage alcohol may be permitted for those who use it responsibly, the Church has a further responsibility for those people who, for one reason or another, choose to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages.

Therefore, the following guidelines are given for the serving and use of alcoholic beverages at Church functions or on Church property within the Diocese of Mississippi:

1. Any beverage which contains alcohol should always be clearly identified as such; this also applies to any food (such as fruit compotes, desserts, etc.) where the alcohol has not been violated (i.e., cooked out”).
2. Whenever alcohol is served in any form, non-alcoholic alternatives should always be offered. Non-alcoholic beverages should be served with the same attractiveness and accessibility as those containing alcohol, so that people who choose not to drink alcoholic beverages need not feel any embarrassment, discomfort or inconvenience in exercising their preference.
3. Although beverages and other foods containing alcohol may be offered, together with non-alcoholic alternatives, they should never be promoted in such a way as to imply that partaking of them is any kind of social requirements.

4. Alcoholic beverages cannot be sold without a license; this is a violation of Mississippi State law.

5. All other applicable Federal, State and local ordinances, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors, must be observed.

6. The group of people sponsoring the event should be either a church organization or a group of members of the church. Departure from these guidelines should be cleared through the appropriate authority.

7. *Care must be taken to insure that responsible persons are in control of the serving of alcoholic beverages.* The group or organization sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must assume responsibility for providing alternative transportation for anyone whose driving might be impaired.

8. It is the duty of the priest in charge of the congregations and the Wardens and Vestry or Mission Committee to assume the responsibility for the dissemination and observance of these guidelines.

9. Invitations to affairs held on church premises at which alcoholic beverages are to be offered should be issued only to the congregation, parish/mission organizations, their guests and friends, and never to the general public.

Service Booklets

The Chapel will provide personalized service booklets for the wedding. The wedding guild chairman will assist the bride and groom in their selection and will gather all necessary information. All information must be submitted a minimum of fourteen days before the wedding.

Old Testament Selections

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis 2:4-9,15-24

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground;⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Song of Songs 2:10-13, 8:6-7

¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;"¹¹ for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.⁶ Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Tobit 8:5b-8

"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.⁶ You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.'⁷ I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together."⁸ And they both said, "Amen, Amen."

Appropriate Psalms between the readings are 67, 127, and 128.

New Testament Selections

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

New Testament Selections *continued*

Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ²¹Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior.²⁴ Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.²⁸ In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church,³⁰ because we are members of his body.³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.³³ Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.⁹ God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Gospel Selections

Matthew 5:1-10

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:21,24-29

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching,²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9,13-16

⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’⁷ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Wedding Fees

Chapel Fee \$250

Due at the time of initial reservation.

Flower Fee

Due one month before wedding or flowers will not be ordered.

Two altar arrangements, one arrangement in the narthex and two pew markers **\$500**

One additional arrangement in the back of the church **\$100**

Six window arrangements (evening weddings only) **\$200**

Music Fee

Due one month before wedding.

Basic Wedding \$200

The fee includes meeting to plan music, preparing musical materials for the wedding service booklet, arranging for and rehearsing with the cantor and playing organ music for the wedding.

Wedding with one or two additional soloists and/or Chapel Choir \$250

The fee includes everything listed under "Basic Wedding," as well as planning and rehearsal time with the instrumental soloists, vocal soloists, and/or Chapel Choir.

Wedding with three or four additional soloists and Chapel Choir \$300

The fee includes everything listed under "Basic Wedding," as well as planning and rehearsal time with instrumental soloists, vocal soloists, and/or Chapel Choir.

Reception Fee

Due at the time of initial reservation.

Parish Hall Fee \$250

Sexton Fee \$100

Contact Information

Church Office

Rector & Parish Coordinator - 601.856.2593

Wedding Guild Chairman

Pam Manor - 601.826.2120

Flower Guild Chairman

Gan Nelson - 601.856.1716

Organist/Choirmaster

Michael Beattie - 601.421.7787

Wedding Fee Check List

- _____ Pay Chapel Fee (due at the time of initial reservation)
- _____ Pay Flower Fee (due one month before wedding)
- _____ Pay Music Fee (due one month before wedding)
- _____ Pay Parish Hall Fee (due at the time of initial reservation)
- _____ Pay Sexton Fee (due at the time of initial reservation)

Your Personal Notes

**Be sure the Chapel office and Wedding Guild
Chairman has the following information:**

Date of Wedding: Time of Wedding:

Bride's Information

Full Name:

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):

Current Address:

Home Phone #:

Cell Phone #:

Email:

Religious Background:

Father's Full Name:

Mother's Full Name (including maiden):

Parents' Hometown(s):

Groom's Information

Full Name:

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):

Current Address:

Home Phone #:

Cell Phone #:

Email:

Religious Background:

Father's Full Name:

Mother's Full Name (including maiden):

Parents' Hometown(s):

Couple's Address after Wedding:

Wedding Planning Check List

____ Contact the Rector

ASAP after meeting with the Rector:

____ Contact the Parish Coordinator to set date

ASAP after setting the date:

____ Contact the Wedding Guild Chairman

ASAP after setting the date:

____ Contact the Flower Guild Chairman

ASAP after setting the date:

____ Contact the Organist/Choirmaster

____ Talk to the Wedding Guild Chairman about the following:

Date of Rehearsal:

Time of Rehearsal:

Reading Selections

Old Testament:

New Testament:

Psalm(s):

Gospel:

Eucharist? Yes

No

Music:

of bulletins:

Wedding Party

Best Man:

Maid/Matron of Honor:

Groomsmen:

Bridesmaids:

Ushers:

Musician(s):

Scripture Reader(s):

Reader(s) of the Prayers: