



WEDDINGS

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Barnstable

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BLESSINGS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT!

We welcome your interest in being married at Saint Mary's. In the Episcopal Church, marriage is a sanctified covenant in which a couple enters a life-long union by making their vows before God and loved ones, and thus receives the grace and blessing of God to support their commitment to each other. This booklet is designed to help you plan your marriage in accordance with the customs of Saint Mary's and rules of the Episcopal church. Our goal is to make this event a joyful and spiritually rich experience for you and your families. The first step is to call the church to check on our availability and schedule a conversation with our rector to determine if St. Mary's is an appropriate venue for the ceremony you desire. Please call 508-362-3977 and speak with Allison Schiffman Bresette to begin the process. She can also be reached by email at community@stmarys-church.org.

**Love and blessings,
The Rev. Dr. Libby Gibson Catania, Rector**



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”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.” (BCP: 431)

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WEDDING GUIDELINES

To assist the clergy in getting to know you, all couples seeking to be married at St. Mary's will engage in a series of premarital counseling conversations with the rector or other clergy person. These sessions will explore the sacramental nature of marriage, plan the wedding liturgy, and discuss relationship dynamics to support a healthy marriage. Please plan on five conversations, or more if necessary. Under certain circumstances, and only with the invitation of the rector, guest officiants may solemnize a marriage at St. Mary's. At least one of the persons seeking marriage must be a baptized Christian. The guidelines for marriage between people of the same sex are the same as for people of the opposite sex.

The Episcopal Church requires a minimum of thirty days notice before a marriage can take place, and we prefer at least six months to ensure adequate preparation with the couple. If one or both of the persons is divorced, the clergy must obtain permission from the Bishop of Massachusetts. Please allow adequate time to work through this process.

Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal is required, no more than 5 days in advance of the wedding. It is essential that all members of the wedding party are present. Please schedule the rehearsal at the time that you schedule your wedding.



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GOD, THE SOURCE OF LOVE, WE PRAY NOW FOR ALL WHO ARE COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER IN LOVE. THROUGH THEIR LOVE MAY THEY KNOW YOUR LOVE AND SO BE RENEWED FOR YOUR SERVICE IN THE WORLD. (NZP: 803)

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PLANNING THE SERVICE

The Liturgy

The form for THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE begins on page 422 of The Book of Common Prayer. This service offers a framework for creating a marriage liturgy that honors the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church and the unique qualities of the bride and groom. In addition to prayers, vows, and blessings, the wedding service may include several hymns, readings from Scripture, other sacred and appropriate readings, a short homily, and Holy Communion – if desired. All persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion at St. Mary's. A clear invitation is issued during the service so all feel welcome at the Lord's table as well as instructions on how to receive Communion. The officiant will work with you to shape a beautiful and meaningful service.

If the wedding liturgy does not include Holy Communion, it will take approximately 30 minutes. If the ceremony includes Holy Communion, depending on the number of guests, it will take 50 - 60 minutes. A maximum of three hours is allowed for each wedding. Wedding parties may arrive up to two hours in advance of the Liturgy and remain for up to one hour following it for photographs.

Music

Music is an integral part of festive church liturgies. A church wedding is primarily a community affair, not a private or personal rite. Wedding music should be chosen to reflect the Christian understanding of marriage as an expression of God's love. Hence, the overall effect and theological implications of the words and music you select are an extremely important part of your premarital plans and discussions. The selection of all music is done in consultation with the officiant and Minister of Music. The Minister of Music will be happy to provide you with an ample list of music from which you may choose. He is also happy to play samples of the pieces at your consultation. Please consider using popular, secular music at the rehearsal dinner or reception rather than as part of the liturgy. In addition to the organ, the Minister of Music may approve the presence of a soloist and other instrumentalists. Please do not engage additional musicians until you have talked with the Minister of Music. Additional rehearsals may be necessary and if so the couple will be responsible for paying those fees.

After confirming your date with the rector, please contact the Minister of Music, Dr. Mark Lawlor, at least three months prior to the date of your wedding in order to schedule a consultation. He can be reached at music@stmarys-church.org.



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WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WEDDING CEREMONY. EVERYTHING ABOUT IT WAS JUST PERFECT, IT WILL BE SUCH A SPECIAL MEMORY WE WILL CHERISH FOREVER. WE ARE SO BLESSED YOU WERE ABLE TO MARRY US, THANK YOU FOR THE INCREDIBLE SERVICE. - ABBY

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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Witnesses

The minimum number of persons required at a wedding is five (5): the Officiant, bride, groom, and two witnesses. The same individuals will sign the parish register following the marriage service.

Marriage License

A Marriage License must be obtained from the proper civil authorities. Please bring your marriage license and any balance due on your fees to the parish administrator on the day of your rehearsal. We do not conduct a rehearsal without these items in place. The Officiant will sign the marriage license and return it to the issuing county after the service.

Flowers

The focal point of the church is the altar, and here the couple exchanges their vows. This elegant and simple setting does not require elaborate decoration. The use of candles is restricted to those currently in the church. The flowers at the altar must fit on the tables behind the altar. Flower delivery time must be arranged in consultation with the church office. Wedding flowers are considered gifts to the church and will remain in the church for use the following Sunday. No rose petals, rice or birdseed are permitted.

Photography

A wedding is a worship service at which two people marry each other before God. Our policies in regard to photographers and videographers are designed to protect the reverence of the marriage ceremony. Flash photography is not permitted by guests or professionals. The wedding photographer may take a limited number of pictures from the congregation, but s/he may not enter the altar platform. We will gladly pose for any pictures to recreate scenes from the liturgy following the service. A video camera may be set up in an unobtrusive location but may not be manipulated or moved during the service. The rector must approve the placement of the video camera. Outdoor photography may be done at anytime, weather permitting. It is very helpful for the photographer to have a clear agreement with the couple as to what photos are desired. It is the couple's responsibility to inform the photographer of these policies. Please do not ask for any exceptions to these policies, which are designed to protect our traditions and sacred space as well as the dignity of the bridal party.

Seating Capacity

The church can seat 225 people. There are 16 pews on one side and 15 pews on the other. There are 16 pew candles, if desired.



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“YOUR FELLOWSHIP HALL IS BEAUTIFUL. IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR OUR PARTY, AND THE GARDENS PROVIDED A WONDERFUL SPACE FOR COCKTAILS.

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RECEPTION GUIDELINES

The Parish Hall is available for wedding receptions and may be engaged when your application to be married at St. Mary is accepted. Wine and champagne may be served by a TIPS certified bartender. Music and dancing are permitted, as long as you respect the 10 pm curfew for our residential neighborhood. You and your caterer are responsible for returning the hall and kitchen to its original condition. If you desire the services of our custodian, at least 30 days notice is required. To reserve the hall, a signed contract and deposit are required.

Reception fees

\$500 for 3 hours usage (\$250 for active, pledging members for at least 2 years)

\$150 per additional hour needed, including set-up and clean-up time

The church's custodian may be employed at a rate of \$25 / hour to assist with set-up and clean-up. The church needs a minimum of one month's notice to arrange for these services.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS



Please read all of the following biblical selections carefully. You are not limited to these choices and are certainly free to choose others that are close to your heart and mind. Please discuss these potential readings with the clergy. The Priest you are working with will assist you in your selections.

From the Old Testament (select one)

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female God created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 2:15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Songs 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (That she and I may grow old together)

From the New Testament (select one)

1 Corinthians 13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2; 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

1 John 4:7-16 (NRSV) (Let us love one another for love is of God)

From the Gospels (select one)

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:21, 7:24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house)

Mark 10:6-9 (They are no longer two but one)

Mark 10:13-16 (Let the little children come to me)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)



WEDDING FEES

as of January 1, 2020

\$400

Clergy: All premarital counseling sessions, ceremony planning, bulletin and homily preparation. (Waived for active parishioners of St. Mary's ***)

\$300

Clergy: Rehearsal, & Ceremony (additional fees may be requested for time and travel for off-site services)

\$300

Organist: Initial consultation, Rehearsal, & Ceremony (additional fees may be requested for additional work with guest musicians and soloists)

\$1250

Sanctuary Use: Waived for active parishioners. However, donations are gratefully received.

\$500

Garden Use: Waived for active parishioners. However, donations are gratefully received.

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JULIE REMIE AND ALEX
GORDIAS

***** AN ACTIVE PARISHIONER IS A PERSON WHO REGULARLY ATTENDS SERVICES AND HAS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED ST. MARY'S FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. THE RECTOR AND VESTRY HAVE THE RIGHT TO WAIVE OR ADJUST ANY FEES DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENT AT THEIR DISCRETION.**

NOTES