

2. Any texts that are sung must, under the Canons and Rubrics, be from the Bible, the Prayer Book, or other authorized services, from the Hymnals of the Episcopal Church, or be theologically consistent with them.

3. The final decision on the appropriateness of music and soloists must reside with the Rector in consultation with the Director of Music.

4. Should a guest organist be desired, it must be with the approval of the Director of Music and under her supervision. In such case, the Director of Music functions as a consultant.

5. Soloists are expected to contact the Director of Music at least four weeks prior to the service and make necessary arrangements for rehearsals.

6. Recorded music will not be used.

### 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 bride and groom. In deference to the nature of the service and to the many people who must be on hand for a rehearsal, **members of the wedding party are expected to be present and on time.**

The rehearsal is under the sole direction of the officiating priest. It is to be conducted prayerfully and reverently. Any parties to be held should be arranged so as not to cause delay, embarrassment, or difficulty for any concerned. Such events should follow the rehearsal. The rehearsal shall take no more than 50 minutes.

### Marriage License:

**The marriage license issued in the State of Florida will be brought to the church office no later than the Monday before given to the Parish Administrator.**

### Photographer:

A wedding is a worship service. No flash will be used during the ceremony except during the bridal party's entrance and exit. No photos of any kind may be taken during the service by anyone other than the professional. Posed photographs of the wedding group may be taken immediately after the ceremony, and should be done as rapidly as possible. (You may have as much as 45 minutes for those photographs.) Please instruct your photographer about these regulations.

Videotaping may be done discreetly by available light from designated locations. Consult with clergy for details.

### Reception:

The Parish Hall can usually be made available for a wedding reception. Arrangements should be made as early as possible by telephoning the Parish Secretary at 261-4293 and completing a Parish Hall lease agreement. **Rice or bird seed may not** be thrown on the church grounds since it creates a hazardous condition on the steps and walks.

### Contributions and Fees:

The established fees for the services associated with your wedding are as follows:

Honorarium for Clergy*	
Organist	\$200.00
Sexton	\$150.00

All fees must be paid two weeks in advance. The checks for the organist and sexton must be made out to them directly. Other fees should be made to the church. Checks should be payable to *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*. No wedding may take place until these fees have been paid.

### Contact People:

#### The Clergy:

The Rev. George D. Young III, Rector 904-261-4293  
ext. 11

#### Staff:

Clinton Weinberg, Parish Administrator 904-261-4293  
ext. 10

#### The Altar Guild Director:

Gail Crim 904-261-9285

#### Parish Musician:

Jan Pitts Smith Office: 904-261-4293  
ext. 19  
Home: 904-310-6639

#### Parish Office:

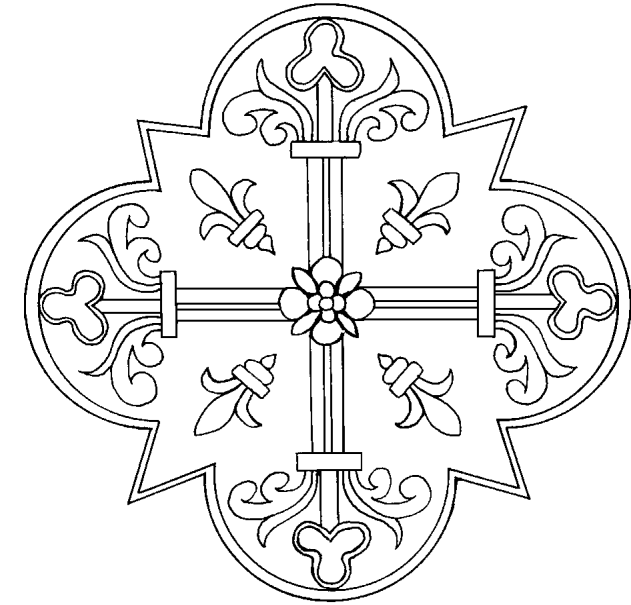
Mailing Address: 801 Atlantic Avenue  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
Telephone: 904-261-4293  
Fax: 904-277-1617  
E-mail: [www.parishoffice@stpetersparish.org](mailto:www.parishoffice@stpetersparish.org)

*\* The clergy do not charge for their time and do not anticipate any kind of honorarium from active members. Our clergy are supported by your pledges to the total ministry of the parish. Weddings of members are seen as central parts of this church's ministry to them. However, if a gift from a non-member is planned, it should be determined on the basis of time spent with the couple and the scope of the wedding. Clergy often spend twenty hours or more on each wedding including counseling, planning, rehearsal and the wedding itself. (An honorarium of \$300 is appropriate for the clergy discretionary fund.)*

*+ The church is not normally available to non-members for weddings. However, when an exception is made, a sum equal to a minimum average pledge for a year is expected. For these purposes, a member is considered to be a person who is known to the Treasurer through regular support and by the Rector by active attendance. Persons who do not fulfill this are expected to consult with the Parish Administrator concerning their eligibility. Non-members must plan to be available for counseling and planning over the course of at least three months before the date of the wedding, just like active members.*

† Non-members please contact our Wedding Planner Associate, Lorna Meehan at 904-556-3578

# A Wedding Customary



*St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

*801 Atlantic Avenue,*

*Fernandina Beach, FL 32034*

*Telephone: 904-261-4293*

*E-mail: [parishoffice@stpetersparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpetersparish.org)*

## Introduction

No minister of this church shall solemnize any marriage unless he/she shall have ascertained that both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will; and with intent that it be lifelong.

- Title I, Canon 17, Sec. 2(b)

The celebration and blessing of a wedding is a sacramental action of the Church, as well as an event for a couple and their family and friends. It is our desire at St. Peter's Parish to assist our members as they plan for their wedding so that the preparation time can be a period of growth in the understanding of Christian Marriage. The service itself is a witness to our conviction that marriage was instituted by God and that our Lord does indeed bless those who make a sacred covenant with one another in His name before His altar.

In order to assist couples and their families to begin planning with an understanding of the regulations and traditions of the Church for a wedding of beauty and dignity, the following guidelines are provided.

## General Guidelines:

1. Under the canons of the Episcopal Church, applications for marriage must be made to the Rector/Associate Rector at least 3 months in advance. This is a minimum and leaves adequate time for the premarital counseling required by the Church and the many other details that arise. (See #3 below concerning divorced persons.) AFTER SPEAKING WITH A CLERGY, A WEDDING DATE CAN TENTATIVELY BE RESERVED ON THE PARISH CALENDAR. HOWEVER, NO FINAL DECISION CAN BE MADE AS TO WHETHER THE MARRIAGE CAN BE SOLEMNIZED HERE UNTIL THE COUPLE HAS COUNSELED WITH THE CLERGY AT LEAST ONCE.

2. We can only celebrate weddings in which at least one party is:

- a. an active member of St. Peter's Parish.

- b. the son or daughter of an active member.

- c. affiliated with an Episcopal parish, active in a congregation and able to meet guidelines in negotiations with the Rector.

3. If either party has been married before and divorced and the former spouse is still living, the entire matter must be dealt with in consultation with the Bishop and depends upon the recommendation of the priest on the basis of his/her knowledge of the couple. **It is the couple's responsibility to volunteer this information immediately.** No less than four months must be allowed between the initial application and the date of the wedding. Because a knowledge of the couple by the priest is an essential part of the process, at least one person must be an active member of an Episcopal parish.

4. Under no circumstances can any announcement of a wedding at St. Peter's be made until the couple has interviewed with the Rector/ Associate Rector and he/she consents to officiate. In the event a judgment is necessitated by virtue of a divorce, no announcement can be made until the Bishop has signified his permission.

5. Christian marriage is a request for God's blessing upon a covenant freely undertaken by a couple for their lifetime. The service for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, which often involves the Eucharist, is a sacrament of the Church. There are some options which the couple may elect, but keep in mind that the form of the service itself is prescribed by the Church (see *Book of Common Prayer*, pages 422-432; 437-438) and neither the priest nor the couple is free to alter the service beyond the permissible options.

6. If any clergy of the Episcopal Church has declined, for any reason, to officiate at a particular marriage, no clergy is at liberty to do so without prior consultation with the priest involved and with his/her ready consent. It is the responsibility of the couple to make such

circumstances known to the Rector.

7. The parish clergy will not officiate at weddings other than in a church.

8. The marriage service is found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 423. The officiating clergy person, in consultation with the Altar Guild, is responsible for the entire service, including the appropriateness of all arrangements, music (in consultation with the organist), and for conducting the rehearsal. Together with the clergy, the couple will decide such matters as Scripture readings, other participants, and whether or not the Eucharist is to be celebrated.

9. Contact should be made with the Altar Guild Director and Parish Musician 4-6 weeks prior to the ceremony.

10. The Chancel area of the Church accommodates a maximum of 16 attendants. The Fire Marshall has determined that the occupant capacity of the Church is 200 people.

11. It is the prerogative of the resident clergy of St. Peter's to officiate at all weddings. Other clergy of the Episcopal Church may, with the Rector's consent, be allowed to officiate.

12. Clergy from other denominations may, with the approval of the Rector, be invited to assist in the service, but are not allowed to officiate.

**13. The church and associated rooms will be opened two hours before the service.**

14. Serving beer, wine or champagne is permitted at the reception in the Parish Hall, but **alcohol** is never brought into the church nor are those preparing and dressing for the wedding permitted to consume **alcohol**.

## Times for Weddings:

Weddings are to be arranged at such times that do not conflict with regularly scheduled services. Sundays and major feast days are not appropriate because of the full schedule in accordance with ancient church practice, marriages are not celebrated during Lent.

## Flowers and Accessories:

1. **Flowers on the Altar will be purchased from Dottie B's Florist.** All other flowers in the church are arranged by the family and local florists.

2. Plans for flowers should be developed at least one month prior to the wedding in consultation with the Altar Guild Director whose name and phone number is at the end of this customary.

3. Flowers placed in the church for a wedding are considered to be an offering to God and are taken to the sick and shut-ins. If the church is decorated for a special event or season, such decorations and flowers may not be removed.

4. Wedding kneeling cushion will be provided by the church.

5. Only the candles normally used at the services in the church are to be used.

6. Reserved pews may be marked only by ribbons or modest floral arrangements. These markers should be removed immediately following the service.

7. Aisle runners are a safety hazard and may not be used. The dropping of flower petals in the center aisle is not permitted.

## Dress:

Dress for weddings should be kept simple, in good taste, and appropriate for the House of God. Rooms are available to the bride and her attendants to dress for the wedding.

## Music for the Wedding:

A consultation with the Director of Music (name and telephone number at the end of this customary) should be arranged as early as possible in the planning stages of the wedding. She will discuss music possibilities with the couple and advise them. Please observe the following points:

1. The wedding or the Nuptial Eucharist is a sacred service and all music and texts are to be avoided that have a secular connotation.