THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

All Saints' Episcopal Church
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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

For centuries, Christians have found the church to be the appropriate place to mark the major turning points in a lifetime of spiritual and social development. Very early in the history of the church, marriage was perceived to be a reflection of the love of God for people, and Christ's love for the church became the model of love in marriage.

Couples have sought the blessing of the church and of God upon their solemn commitment to live together as spouses.

We at all Saints wish you well as you plan your future together and sincerely hope that the planning of your wedding will itself be an enriching experience for you.

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

- One person should be a baptized Christian.
- Before contacting the church about marriage, the couple should attend worship for 3-4 weeks to see if All Saints is a church where you would like to worship.
- We require no less than six months prior notification of a wedding date. Exceptions will be made with regard to the time frame (for example, impending military service or those actively a member of the US Armed Forces; this is entirely at the priest's discretion).
- At least one member of the couple should be a member of the church or a close relation to a member of the church. Membership is defined as someone who is a regular communicant known to the treasurer (i.e., they worship regularly with us and support the church financially).

No weddings may be scheduled for

- Christmas Eve or Christmas Day
- Lent or Holy Week (the Saturday just before Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday: check date of Easter Sun).
- Thanksgiving Day or the day after Thanksgiving.
- All Saints Day Weekend (the first weekend in November)
- Sundays

Persons wishing to be married at All Saints are expected to attend church regularly.

CLERGY OFFICIATING AT YOUR WEDDING:

The rector or an affiliated clergy person on staff will officiate at your wedding. If you have a pastoral relationship with a minister from another church and you would like to have that person

participate in some way in your wedding service, you must first ask the permission of the rector at All Saints. She or he will discuss that with you.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED:
Persons who have been divorced must show a divorce decree, and the priest must first seek the permission of the Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago.

PRE-MARITAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIEST:
The priest who is going to officiate at your wedding ceremony will meeting with you 4-6 times before your wedding with a final meeting one or two months before your wedding: the sessions are confidential and the nature and length of these discussions will be determined individually for each couple. These meetings are essential to preparing for the sacrament of marriage and are required by The Episcopal Church.

During those meetings, the priest will also review with you the marriage rite in *The Book of Common Prayer*, the official worship book of The Episcopal Church. Only the marriage rite in The Book of Common Prayer will be used. The words and images of the marriage service are beautiful and very powerful. Appropriate passages from the Bible for your wedding (at least two readings) will also be discussed.

PLANNING MUSIC FOR THE SERVICE:
At least eight weeks before your wedding, you should make an appointment with the Music Director at All Saints. The organist will help you choose music appropriate for a wedding. If you would like to have other musicians participate, you may discuss that with the Music Director.

PAYMENT OF FEES:
Fees should be paid one week before the wedding. A list of fees follows this document.

DELIVERING THE WEDDING LICENSE:
Church laws require that we keep official records of all marriages solemnized in the church; you may deliver the wedding license when you provide payment or at the rehearsal.

REHEARSING THE SERVICE: 5 pm the day before the wedding.
The rehearsal is the opportunity to review the service itself and is the culmination of the wedding preparations. The rehearsal lasts about an hour. The entire wedding party will walk through the service with the officiating priest. The Organist will already have reviewed the music with you and does not have to be present.

If you have a wedding consultant, that consultant follow the traditions of the church; you should have the wedding consultant contact the priest early on in the preparation process.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY
Photos in the church should be taken immediately after the ceremony. All photography must be concluded within 30 minutes after the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE TAKEN at the beginning of the ceremony for the processions in and going out at the end of the service. Once the Service has started, NO FLASH photography is permitted. Professional photographers must station themselves discretely and after the opening procession, they may take photos from one of the side aisles. They should never be in the middle of the sanctuary where the altar is placed.

VIDEO CAMERAS may be used, but once the Service has begun, a professional videographer must stand off to the side and not block any central part of the aisle or altar area. We use mics for our sound systems and cannot wear additional mics for a video. Please tell the priest in advance if you are intending to use a professional videographer for your wedding ceremony.

FLOWERS: It is common, though not necessary, to have an arrangement at the altar. You may leave an altar arrangement for the following Sunday Service and the names of the couple who were married will be included in the Sunday bulletin. All other flowers and decorations must be removed after the ceremony.

While you may use a florist of your choosing, if you have not decided on a florist, we encourage you to use the florist we recommend who has experience working in our unusual space. The office or the priest can provide his name and the contact for you. If you choose another florist, please put your florist in touch with him so he can advise.

Rose petals may not be scattered inside the Church. Aisle runners are not permitted.

DRESSING AREAS: Since All Saints Church does not have a large administration building, please dress at home. There is a small church hall where the party may gather, and of course there are restroom facilities. Please bring water for your wedding party. Remember to have a snack before your ceremony: nerves and empty stomachs lead to fainting!

USHERS: It is customary for the couple to provide dependable and conscientious ushers for the service. It is important that these be adults or young adults. They should be at the church at least 40 minutes before the ceremony. Their responsibility is to seat people and to alert people as to where restrooms are, etc. The priest will confer with your ushers.

OUTSIDE AFTER THE CEREMONY: The throwing of rice or bird seed or any other material is not permitted. This is best left to the reception.

PARKING: There is no parking lot for the church. Street parking is easily available, and there is handicap parking on Wilson near our accessibility ramp. A limousine or other principal car may pull up immediately in front of the main doors. For weekday weddings after 5 pm and weekend weddings at any time, there is copious parking on Ravenswood Avenue one block west of the church.

WEDDING FEES
Members of All Saints: $475
Non-members of All Saints: $4,075.00. This is for the use of the sanctuary.

Organist Fee: Included in Wedding Fee. For the organist to attend the rehearsal, add $75 to the wedding fee. For each additional musician added to the service, add $75 to the wedding fee.

If you wish to hire a soloist, please consult with the Organist. The organist may have other professional musicians that may be available. You will have to consult with him as to their fees. The organ is the principal instrument used for your wedding. The organist is paid by the church; other musicians should be paid directly by you.

Honorarium or monetary gift to the priest: This is not required but is an acknowledgment of the time and preparation the priest has devoted to you as a couple and helping you have a meaningful start to your marriage. Gifts typically range from $150-$300. You may direct this to the church's discretionary fund, from which clergy help the poor, or make the gift directly to the priest. The choice is yours.