

Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Guidelines and Information



The Episcopal Church of
St. John in the Wilderness
2175 1st Street
White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110
651/429-5351

E-mail: wilderness2@stjohnwilderness.org
Web Site: www.stjohnwilderness.org
The Rev. Mark Wm. Kelm, Rector
The Rev. Joanie Delamater, Associate Priest

2005 Revision

When a woman and a man seek to establish a Christian marriage in which they intend to enter into a life-long relationship, to make their vows before God and the Church, and to receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows, they turn to the parish church. The first step in planning for their celebration of marriage in the church is to contact the parish clergy to arrange for dates, counseling and other plans. This handbook provides information concerning requirements and customs of the Episcopal Church and this Parish.

The celebration and blessing of a marriage is a sacramental rite of the Church in which we come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining of a man and a woman in Holy Matrimony. In order to assist those desiring to be married in this Parish, the following policies have been established at St. John's, conforming with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Order of Service, the rubrics of the *Book of Common Prayer (1979)*, and the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Planning and Counseling: It is very important to contact the clergy before setting a wedding date. Canons require a 30-day notice period, minimum. It is Parish policy that couples meet with the officiating clergy on at least three occasions.

Customarily, marriages are not celebrated during Lent, except under special circumstances. Marriages are prohibited during Holy Week. In the Episcopal Church, marriage of those who have been divorced is possible with the consent of the Bishop. In such cases, consult with Parish clergy to discuss that possibility. You must give at least 60 days' notice if one of you has been divorced.

Marriage License: A marriage license from the State of Minnesota is required, with a five-day waiting period between the date of application and the date of use. Obtain the license from the Clerk of Court at the County Courthouse well in advance of the wedding date. Bring it to the Parish Office before the rehearsal date. The completed certificates will be given to the couple immediately after the wedding.

Rehearsal: At the same time a wedding date is arranged, schedule a rehearsal, if desired, for a suitable and convenient time. Rehearsals shall begin and end on time. Please allow one hour for rehearsal.

We expect your regular attendance at our worship services prior to your wedding, and encourage your regular attendance following.

The Service: The “Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage” in the **Book of Common Prayer** begins with the remarks, “Concerning the Service”, on page 422. We recommend you study the liturgy carefully!

On page 425 there are four options for presenting the bride and groom, with a rubric suggesting you also check page 437.

The scripture lessons are listed on page 426.

Choose one Old Testament Lesson (may be read by a lay person).

- Genesis 1:26-28** (Male and female he created them)
Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)
Song of Solomon 2:10-13;8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)
Tobit 8:5b-8 (That she and I may grow old together)

Choose one New Testament Lesson (may be read by a lay person).

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13** (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 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Any Psalm may be selected. The Book of Common Prayer suggests **Psalm 67, 127 or 128**.

Choose one Gospel Lesson (must be read by an ordained person).

- Matthew 5:1-10** (The Beatitudes)
Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)
Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)
Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)
John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version, the Revised Standard Version, the New English Bible, the Jerusalem Bible, or the Authorized Version (King James). Only these translations may be used.

Concerning the Prayers beginning on page 428: The Lord’s Prayer is used here if there is no Communion. The other prayers on pages 429 and 430 may be prayed by lay persons, several persons, so that one might read the first prayer, another person the second, etc.

If Communion will be celebrated, go from the Peace on page 431 to the Offertory of the Eucharist on page 361. We strongly urge the use of Eucharistic Prayer A, which begins on that page. The Holy Communion is a sacrament for the entire congregation. If needed, the Parish can provide chalice bearers. The Eucharist concludes with a special prayer on page 432, rather than the forms of thanksgiving on pages 365 and 366.

Many couples find a printed program helpful. We will provide a format if you want to create your own program. Our Office can furnish an original document of the order of service, for reproduction by your printer of choice.



Music: The Parish organist plays for all weddings in the Church, with the following exceptions: 1) when no music is desired; 2) when music is provided by instrumental groups not including the organ; 3) when a competent organist who is a close friend or relative of the bride or groom might be invited to serve. All music for inclusion in the celebration of a marriage is subject to the approval of the Organist and the Clergy Officiant, as guided by the Canons of the Episcopal Church. Music with primarily secular associations is allowed only with permission of the Officiant and Organist. Congregational singing from the Hymnal is encouraged, especially if the Holy Eucharist is celebrated. During pre-wedding planning, the couple will consult with the Organist to make all arrangements for music. The Parish Organist's wedding fee is \$250.00. A \$50.00 consultation fee applies if our Director serves as music consultant but does not play.

Organist's Name _____

Telephone # _____

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WEDDINGS FROM THE HYMNAL 1982

Entrance Hymns	Number
Praise to the living God!	372
Give praise and glory unto God	375
Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	376
Praise to the Lord	390
Sing praise to God	408
Praise, my soul	410
New songs of celebration	413
Tell out, my soul	438

Hymns after the Declaration of Consent**Number**

May the grace of Christ	351
Lord of all hopefulness	482

Gradual Hymns

Your, love, O God	353
Now thank we all our God	397
Lord of all hopefulness	482
Christ is made the sure foundation	518
O God of Bethel	709

Offertory Hymns

May the grace of Christ	351
Lord of all hopefulness	482
O God of Bethel	709

Communion Hymns

I come with joy	304
This is the hour of banquet and of song	316
Come with us, O blessed Jesus	336

Closing Hymns

Praise to the living God!	372
Give praise and glory unto God	375
Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	376
Praise to the Lord	390
Now thank we all our God	397
Praise my soul	410
O God of Bethel	709

SUGGESTED VOCAL SOLOS FOR WEDDINGS

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus	Paul Manz
O Perfect Love	Joseph Barnby
The Call	Ralph Vaughan Williams
The Greatest of These is Love	Roberta Bitgood
Wedding Song (Whither Thou Goest)	Flor Peeters
A Wedding Benediction	Austin Lovelace
A Wedding Blessing	Walter Pelz
Wedding Prayer	Fern Dunlap
Psalm 128	Robert Wetzler
The Gift of Love	Hal Hopson

Soloists: The Parish Organist will assist you in finding other musicians for vocal or instrumental music.

WEDDING PROCESSIONAL AND RECESSIONAL ORGAN MUSIC

Now Thank We All Our God	Johann Sebastian Bach
Sinfonia from the Wedding Cantata	Johann Sebastian Bach
Trumpet Tune in D	William Boyce
Versets from the <i>Te Deum</i>	Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Trumpet Voluntary in D	Jeremiah Clarke
Hornpipe in D	George Frideric Handel
Rejoicing (La Réjouissance)	George Frideric Handel
Processional in D	David Johnson
God of Grace and God of Glory	Paul Manz
The Heavens Declare the Glory of God	Benedetto Marcello
Sinfonie en Rondeau	Jean Joseph Mouret
Trumpet Tune in D	Henry Purcell
Trumpet Tune in D	John Stanley
Toccatina from Symphonie V	Charles-Marie Widor

Music listed can be sampled on the church website. Click on Site Map, then Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage.



Decorations and Flowers: The Church maintains decorative simplicity for all services, including weddings. The bridal party orders two customary altar flower bouquets. Liners owned by the Parish are used. Altar flowers are delivered to the sacristy at a time to be determined by the Altar Guild.

Temptation Floral, 651/482-9240, shall be the source of all altar flowers.

Altar flowers will be left on the altar as a thank offering on the Sunday following. The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary area, places white hangings on the pulpit, lectern and altar, provides the five-branch altar candelabra, and prepares the altar for Holy Eucharist if needed. At the first planning meetings, the Clergy Officiant will provide information forms. The Altar Guild will coordinate colors, etc. with the altar flowers. The Altar Guild member to call:

_____ at _____

Other Decorations: Ribbon bows may be fastened temporarily to the pews along the center aisle, using twist ties, if desired. Every 2nd or 3rd pew is suggested.

Additional Flowers: Overuse of flowers or other decorations detracts from the natural beauty and simplicity of the Church. While not recommended, with the permission of the clergy, one or two small bouquets or plants may be placed on either side of the chancel steps. The families order these, along with corsages and personal bouquets. Any deliveries must be arranged with the Wedding Coordinator.



Photography: Because a wedding is a worship service, photographers, whether professional or amateur, must follow these guidelines. Please provide a copy of this section to your photographer for guidance.

1. The photographer may have access to the church 90 minutes prior to the ceremony.
2. It is recommended that most, or preferably all, formal photographs be taken prior to the service. This activity must conclude 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.
3. Formal photography after the service may not exceed 30 minutes.
4. No photographs are allowed during the service, except as noted in #5. Any use of flash or other lights is disruptive, and may temporarily blind the participants or Officiant. Flash pictures before the procession must be taken in the narthex, not in the nave of the church.
5. Still photographs during the service, without flash, may be taken from the balcony, when the shutter noise will be unobtrusive.
6. Video recording may be done from the balcony.
7. No one shall enter the sanctuary (the area behind the altar rail). No one shall move books or Church possessions. The photographer must request Altar Guild assistance to move anything in the sanctuary.
8. Guidelines pertaining to flash use shall be shared with your family members and other wedding guests. We recommend a note as such in your wedding program.

General Guidelines for Use of Church:

1. Normally, you may have building access 2 hours prior to the ceremony.
2. Smoking is not permitted on Church premises.
3. Food and beverages are permitted only in the Parish Hall. Alcohol-containing beverages are not allowed on Church premises other than those arranged for a reception.
4. Due to safety concerns, the Church nursery is not available for weddings. Please keep small children under supervision in the areas previously reserved for your wedding.
5. Families are responsible for tidying up all areas used by wedding participants, including but not limited to dressing areas and washrooms.
6. The use of confetti, rice, seeds, etc., is not allowed. (Bubbles work.)



Receptions at the Church: The Parish Hall may be used for receptions under the following conditions:

1. Size of the group - 200 maximum. Saturday receptions in the Parish Hall must end by 10:00 pm.
2. Arrangements must be made for set up, and clean up after the reception. Parish Hall / Kitchen cleanup is the sole responsibility of the wedding party.
3. Alcohol-containing beverages are limited to legal and appropriate use of champagne or wine. Usage must be discussed with and approved by the Parish Rector. If such beverages are available, they must be clearly identified, and appropriate non-alcoholic alternative beverage(s) must be provided and clearly identified.
4. You must provide the caterer's name, address and telephone number to the Church Office.

Wedding Fees: The Rector and Vestry of St. John in the Wilderness Church are happy to make our facility available for weddings. Unless other arrangements are made with the Rector, the following fees apply for Church use. If you have financial concerns, please speak confidentially with the priest.

Pledging Members:

Non-refundable Deposit	\$ 50.00
Use of Church	\$200.00
Use of Parish Hall / Kitchen	\$250.00

Non-pledging Persons:

Non-refundable Deposit	\$ 50.00
Use of Church	\$450.00
Use of Parish Hall / Kitchen	\$400.00

The above fees are payable no later than five business days prior to your wedding. Please make checks payable to **St. John in the Wilderness** and send to the Parish Administrator.

Other fees:

Organist:	payable to David M. Gehrenbeck	
	if he plays for your wedding	\$250.00 or
	if he serves only as music consultant	\$ 50.00

Prepare Premarital Inventory payable to Life Innovations, Inc. \$ 35.00

Clergy Honorarium: This is no set fee, but a donation may be made out to the officiating clergy person: “The Rev. Mark Kelm” or “The Rev. Joanie Delamater.” A suggested donation is \$250.00.

†††

We offer our very best wishes for your married life together, and express those wishes in this prayer for you:

“O God, send 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.”