

Weddings @ St. Paul's





SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*"Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others."
Book of Common Prayer, page 429*

We are happy that you wish to be married here. The church and the Altar Guild are ready to assist you. This information is given to you with the hope that it will make it easier for you in planning your wedding in a way that is both celebratory and spiritually rewarding.

Church and Clergy

Marriages and other blessings are performed at St. Paul's with the following guidelines:

- a. Couples must be planning their wedding no sooner than four to six months from the time they first speak with St. Paul's Church's Rector. If either one of the couple has been divorced, the bishop's approval must be obtained through the parish rector prior to setting a date for the service.
- b. They are encouraged to attend St. Paul's Church regularly prior to their marriage, and will be welcomed as members in good standing of the parish.
- c. Non members of the St. Paul's can be married at the church providing all other guidelines are met and with the consent of the Rector.
- d. They should understand that pre-marital counseling is required by the Episcopal Church and the parish, and that the counseling period may be extended on the basis of the first few sessions with St. Paul's Church's clergy, and therefore they should not prepare invitations before the counseling is well underway.

Weddings in the Episcopal Church follow the form provided in the Book of Common Prayer. An outline is included to facilitate the detail planning of the ceremony with the clergy.

It is not customary in this congregation to use unity candles at weddings.

It should be understood that there is no appropriate space for dressing rooms for a large wedding party.

The obtaining of a marriage license in the State of Michigan is the responsibility of the couple. A valid marriage license must be presented to the officiating clergy either during business hours two days before the wedding is to take place, or at the rehearsal if one is scheduled. **No ceremony will take place unless all pertinent documents have been provided in advance.**



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No flash photographs are permitted during the ceremony. Arrangements can be made with the Officiant for pictures to be taken before or after the service.

Floral bouquets are permitted but should be modest and simple. Flowers may be used around the font or on stands, on pews or around the altar but not placed on the altar. Flowers are not provided by the church and may be ordered from a florist of the couple's choice. Flowers may be left for use at the following Sunday Eucharist at which prayers will be offered for the newly married/blessed couple.

A wedding consultant is not required for the planning of a wedding at St. Paul's Church.

Music

St. Paul's Church is fortunate to have a magnificent organ. It is the instrument normally used for all services of the Church. Music in the ceremony should be of sacred origins. Secular music in popular styles is appropriate for the reception, but not the service itself. Amplified music is not allowed in the church.

You may wish to use other instruments, either in conjunction with the organ or in solo or ensembles. You may also desire vocal music offerings. The St. Paul's Rector is responsible for all music at our services. In addition to suggesting appropriate repertoire, the Organist can arrange for additional musicians and must approve any musicians of your choosing and their musical selections. In the event that you wish another organist to play, the Organist must still receive the customary fee.



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Fee Schedule

A. **Communicants in good standing** are defined by the canons of the Episcopal Church as “all communicants of the Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God”. That is, those whose baptisms are registered in the office attend regularly and are known to the treasurer.

- i. Parish Fund recommended donation \$200 - \$350
- ii. Organist: \$100-\$200 This is the base fee. The final fee depends on the complexity of the music selected. The fees are set according to the American Guild of Organists scale.
- iii. Bulletins must be prepared in consultation with the clergy.

B. **Non-pledging** are defined as not qualifying as communicant in good standing in A above.

- i. Parish Fund \$450
- ii. Recommended Clergy honoraria \$200
- iii. Organist: \$200. This is the base fee. The final fee depends on the complexity of the music selected. The fees are set according to the American Guild of Organists scale.
- iv. Bulletins must be prepared in consultation with the clergy and produced by the church. The fee depends on the complexity of the bulletin. The fee starts at \$50 for the first 100 copies.
- v. Sexton (maintenance of the building) \$100
- vi. Altar Guild (preparation of the church) \$100



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Family's Responsibility

- No confetti, rice or seed may be used at the church
- The church cannot be responsible for personal belongings left in the church following the ceremony.
- The wedding party should be at the church half an hour before the ceremony. The Altar Guild will be there to assist.

Photographer's Responsibility

- No flash pictures may be taken in the church proper during the ceremony. One professional photographer may take time-exposure photographs during the ceremony.
- Videography is permitted with the consent of the Rector.
- Pictures may be taken in the library and church grounds.
- Picture-taking following the service must be limited to 30 minutes.
- The receiving line is to take place at the reception.

Florist's Responsibilities

Church decorations should be completed two hours before the ceremony.

- We invite you to leave the flowers on the altar for use at the Sunday service
- Runners are not used at St. Paul's Church.



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Wedding Outline (from The Book of Common Prayer)

Note: Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant. In the Episcopal Church it is required that at least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of the Church.

Opening Anthem/Hymn/Psalm/Sacred Instrumental Music (for entry of wedding party/clergy):

Exhortation
Declaration of Consent

The Liturgy of the Word
Collect

Old Testament Reading

- 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 [New English Bible] (That she and I may grow old together)
- Other: _____

Psalm/Hymn/Anthem

- Psalm 67
- Psalm 127
- Psalm 128
- Other: _____

New Testament Reading

- 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)
- Other: _____



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Hymn/Anthem: _____

The Holy Gospel (usually chosen by the preacher)

- Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)
- Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light...let your light shine)
- Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (like a wise man who built his house on 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)
- Other: _____

Homily (by a member of the clergy)

The Marriage:

The Prayers

The Peace

The Blessing of the Marriage

The Dismissal

When there is no Celebration of the Holy Eucharist:

Anthem/Hymn/Sacred Instrumental Music (for wedding party to exit):



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When there is the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist:

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem/Hymn _____

The Eucharistic Prayer

Communion of the People

Anthem/Hymn/Music _____

Anthem/Hymn/Music _____

Anthem/Hymn/Music _____

Post Communion Prayer

Anthem/Hymn/Sacred Instrumental Music (for wedding party to exit):
