



*Weddings at  
Saint Peter's Church*

*Osterville, MA*

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming marriage! We welcome your interest in being married at Saint Peter's Church. This booklet is designed to help you plan your marriage in accordance with the canons (rules) of the Episcopal Church and the customs of Saint Peter's Church. Our goal is to make this event a memorable and spiritually rich experience for you and your families.

While the Canons of the Episcopal Church require that a couple give at least thirty days notice of their intention to marry, ideally, wedding will be scheduled at least six months in advance. This allows time not only for premarital counseling but also for planning the details of the ceremony as well as consulting with the Music Director. Additionally, if either member of the couple has been divorced, the approval of the Bishop of Massachusetts is required. The Bishop has thirty days to respond to an application filed by the officiating clergy.

When the Rector or his/her assistant has agreed to preside at your wedding or given permission for another Episcopal priest to do so the Celebration and Blessing of your marriage will be placed on the parish calendar.

## THE MARRIAGE CANONS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Who may be married and conditions for that marriage are set by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church which state:

Title1, Canons 18 & 19

1. Every member of the clergy of this Church shall conform to the laws of the State governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Church governing the Solemnization of Holy Marriage.
2. Both parties must have the right to contract a marriage according to the laws of the State.
3. Holy matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with the intent that it be lifelong.
4. Both parties freely and knowingly consent to such a marriage, without fraud, coercion, mistake as to identity of a partner, or mental reservation.
5. At least one of the parties had received Holy Baptism.
6. Both parties shall be instructed as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by the member of the clergy or that they have received such instruction from persons known by the member of the clergy to be competent and responsible.
7. There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of marriage.
8. The member of the clergy shall have required that the parties sign the Declaration of Intention.
9. It shall be within the discretion of any member of the clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage.
10. Any member of this Church whose marriage has been annulled or dissolved by a civil court may apply to the Bishop for a judgment as to his or her marital status in the eyes of the Church. Such a judgment may be recognition of the nullity, or of the termination of the said marriage.

*Episcopal Church Marriage Discipline, from the constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church, 1991*

## PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDDING

### *PREMARITAL COUNSELING*

The Canons of the Church require the clergy to counsel prospective marriage partners in Christian marriage and living. The clergy of Saint Peter's Church are happy to schedule this pastoral opportunity with you. We will meet with you as often as necessary to help you prepare for a fruitful marriage, usually 5-6 sessions lasting one hour and a half each.

If either the Bride or Groom is unable to be present for counseling prior to the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, with the consent of the officiating priest they may arrange to receive their counseling from another qualified person. This person will certify to our clergy that the counseling requirements have been fulfilled.

If you have had a previous marriage set aside by law your officiating priest must obtain permission from the Bishop of the Diocese to officiate at your wedding. Please note that the Bishop has thirty days to respond to applications for remarriage and plan accordingly.

### *WITNESSES*

The minimum number of persons required at a wedding is five (5): the Officiant, bride, groom, and two witnesses. The same individuals sign the parish register following the marriage service. This provides a legal record to be kept at the [parish in addition to the certificate of marriage which is signed and sent to the county office.

### *MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION*

No marriage may be solemnized without first obtaining a Marriage License from the proper civil authorities. Please deliver your marriage license and any balance due on your fees to the parish administrative assistant by 9:00 am on the last business day before 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. Should you desire a copy of the marriage certificate you must request it from the county which has it on file and one will be mailed to you.

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WEDDINGS AT ST. PETER'S

### *WEDDING COORDINATORS*

Outside bridal consultants may be helpful in connection with the reception and other matters, but the Liturgy and related church arrangements are the sole responsibility of the clergy. 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 be on time for the rehearsal (plan at least 10 minutes in advance). The rehearsal is usually held the day before the wedding in advance of other festivities, preferably early in the evening. If any persons other than the wedding party are present, they should take seats in the rear of the church so that the Officiant can easily identify the wedding party and the rehearsal can proceed without delay.

### *SEATING CAPACITY*

*The church seat approximately 200-235.*

### *FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS*

The church furnishings and architecture focus attention on the altar as the symbol of God's presence. It is at this center that the couple exchanges their vows before God and God's Church. This elegant and simple setting does not require elaborate decoration. The flowers at the altar must fit on the re-table 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. The Altar Guild will prepare the altar if there is a Eucharist.

### *RICE, BIRDSEED OR PAPER ROSE PETALS*

Please do not throw anything at the bridal couple anywhere on the church property. Flower girls may gently strew artificial petals during the entrance rite. Live flowers damage the carpet and are not allowed.

## *FLOWERS*

St. Peter's Church knows how important flowers are for your wedding. With this in mind the following measurement are provided for the locations suggested for flowers:

- Front door: each door is 24" wide
- Two front urns: 12" across
- Thirty-two pews: 18" around pew shoulder, 36" top to bottom
- Inside front step rail: wrought iron banisters: 39" across (from the top step to the floor)
- Altar platform: 22" from platform corner to altar front edge
- Re-Table behind altar: 60" between candles and 16" wide.

Flowers placed on the reed table will remain for Sunday's service. The wedding flowers will be offered to the Glory of God in your name at the following Sunday Service. If desired, St. Peter's flower vessels may be used.



## *MUSIC*

Music is an integral part of celebrative church liturgy. Therefore, adequate and serious attention is given to it, as well as to the words of the liturgy. As is the liturgy itself, a church wedding is primarily a community affair, no a private or personal rite. 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 Music Director. We do not use the Bridal Chorus from Wagner's *Lohengrin* ("Here comes the bride") or the Mendelssohn Wedding March from *A Mid-Summers Night Dream*; however, the Music Director will be happy to provide you with an ample list of alternatives from which you may choose. The Music director must approve any requests for music not on the list.

The use of a soloist is permitted, provided the following conditions are met: 1) The selection has been approved by the Music Director. 2) The text of the selection is from Holy Scripture, from the Book of Common Prayer, or from texts congruent with them.

The following are options for use of music *during* the liturgy:

1. While it has become customary in most places to use organ voluntaries for the processional and recessional, a congregational hymn may be sung at either or both of these times instead.
2. A congregational hymn may be sung after the Declaration of Consent and before the Ministry of the Word. The Hymnal provides Hymns 350, 351, 352, and 353 for marriages. Other hymns may also be appropriate. Please discuss other options with the Music Director.
3. In the Episcopal Church, a Psalm is often included as part of the scripture lessons. This Psalm may be chanted. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.
4. A congregational hymn may be sung before the reading from the Holy Gospel.
5. If there is to be celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a congregational hymn may be sung during the Communion time.

Please contact the Music Director at least three months before the date of your wedding in order to schedule a consultation.

*Please note that according to AGO guidelines, if you choose someone other than Saint Peter's Music Director to provide music, the fee for Saint Peter's Music director must still be paid.*

## *PHOTOGRAPHS*

A wedding is a public worship service at which two people marry each other. Our policies in regard to photographers and videographers are designed to protect the marriage ceremony from the tendency to turn the liturgy into a media event.

We ask that no photographs, even ones without flash, be taken during the Liturgy by anyone including guests. We do allow ONE photo without flash as the bride and her escort enter the church at the very beginning of the Liturgy. Photos without flash may be taken during the retiring procession at the conclusion of the liturgy. We will gladly pose for any pictures to recreate scenes from the liturgy following the service.

Outdoor photography may be done at anytime, weather permitting. Other areas remain locked until a member of the church staff arrives. When taking photographs inside the church prior to the wedding, please conclude your photography 45 minutes before the service.

We permit photographs at the altar after the wedding.

A video camera may be set up in an unobtrusive location but may not be manipulated or moved during the service.

It is very helpful for the photographer to have clear agreement with the couple as to what photographs are desired. **It is the couple's responsibility to inform the photographer of these policies.** To assist the couple, a brief note detailing the policies regarding photographs is available for presentation to the photographer.

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.

## *RECEPTIONS AT SAINT PETER'S*

The Parish Hall is available for receptions and may be engaged when your application is accepted. Wine and champagne may be served. Music and dancing are appropriate. You and your caterer are responsible for returning the hall to its original condition. If you desire the services of the sexton, at least 30 days notice is required.

## FEES

*Use of Building-St. Peter's Church	\$250 (for pledging members) \$500 (others)
*Clergy Fee	\$350
*Sexton Fee-Brian Boley	\$100
*Altar Guild-St. Peter's Church	\$ 50
*Organist-Karen Crosby	\$250
Addition fee for musicians	To be determined
*Parish Hall/Kitchen-St. Peter's Church	\$150

Checks will be dispersed by the clergy. (Individual checks for each of the above items.)

Fee Payment in full and this completed form MUST be filed at the Church Office before the wedding date will be put on the Church Calendar and arrangements for the ceremony can proceed.

### *ON THE DAY ITSELF*

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. Since another Liturgy may well proceed or follow your event these times are not extended. The minimum time between weddings is also three hours.

## *ALCOHOL POLICY*

It is important for all participants to have rested and eaten appropriately before the ceremony. While the entire weekend is rightfully festive in tone, after the marriage ceremony is the appropriate time to celebrate. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or any type of non-prescription drug should be avoided until then. It is never appropriate for members of the wedding party to consume alcohol on the church property (except at the reception).

The clergy reserve the right to exclude intoxicated persons from participating in the liturgy, or to refuse to preside at the marriage if the participants are intoxicated.

## Marriage Guide

*Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.*

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)

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)

*Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said.*

*Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.*

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)



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MASSACHUSETTS

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The Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE, Bishop

The Rev. Denzil J. Luckritz, *Rector*

The Rev. Paul M. Thompson, *Associate*

The Rev. Russell H. Allen, *Associate*

Karen Crosby, *Director of Music*

Deborah Wolfe, *Secretary*

St. Peter's Church Vestry – Jeff Callard, Mark Clifford (Clerk), Carole Dwyer (Sr. Warden), Jennifer McDevitt (Treasurer), Don Megathlin, Gretchen Perry, Ned Richardson, Don Sherlock, Susan Soares, Gerry Stanney (Jr. Warden), Maureen Tempesta, Mark Thomas, Gregory Winkler