

## Wedding Policy at St. John's Episcopal Parish, John's Island

To be married at St. John's Parish, John's Island or Grace Chapel, Rockville, the bride or groom must have been, for at least one year, a member of the parish, or the child or grandchild of a member. The Rector, may, for pastoral reasons, consider requests from non-members, but if the wedding is allowed, a non-member fee of \$1000.00 donation will be required. An approved wedding for non-members may be given a provisional date on the parish calendar but cannot be guaranteed until six (6) months before the proposed date. The bride and groom must read the wedding booklet and agree to abide by its contents.

1. Arrangements for the marriage ceremony should be made with the Rector at least 6 months before the anticipated time of the ceremony. The actual date should not be set before consulting the Rector. (Marriages will not be solemnized during the seasons of Advent or Lent).
2. The couple will participate with a priest in premarital guidance. (If the counseling is done by a priest outside of this parish, the wedding party must submit a letter from that priest to the Rector stating that the counseling is completed and it must be received a month prior to the ceremony).
3. Banns of marriage will be published three weeks before the ceremony. Prayers of intercessions will be offered by the congregation during this time.
4. There will be a rehearsal (usually the night before) for the couple and any attendants before the ceremony.
5. The Celebration and Blessing of a marriage will take place in the Church Proper at the appointed time, using the formularies of the Book of Common Prayer.
6. All music (vocal and instrumental) used before, during and after the ceremony must be approved by the Organist/Choir Director
7. No photographing or video recording will be permitted in the Sanctuary during the ceremony. Any video taping must be agreed to by the Rector. Pictures may only be taken before or after the ceremony. No camera lights or flash-bulbs will be permitted during the ceremony.
8. The church facilities are available for receptions, subject to the regulations for Groups Requesting the Use of Church Facilities, which is available from the church office.
9. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED ON CHURCH PROPERTY. Evidence (determined by the Officiant) of intoxication of any person in the wedding party can lead to immediate cancellation (with attendant loss of fees) of the wedding ceremony.
10. Any damage to the church buildings or property will be repaired or replaced at the user's expense. (This includes the florist, the photographer, or musicians.)

11. The church provides damask hangings on the altar, reading desk, pulpit, etc. for weddings. No other hangings may be used on the altar.
12. All floral arrangements must be approved by the Rector and must not be larger than the cross on the reredos of the church.
13. Candles may be used only with the approval of the Rector.
14. No rice, birdseed, flower petals, etc. are to be thrown anywhere on church property.
15. Additional requests not included in this policy must be approved by our Rector.

#### Holy Communion:

Holy Communion may be celebrated as part of the wedding service. If Communion is desired, please discuss this with the officiating priest during premarital instruction. It is most appropriate for the whole congregation to receive Communion when the Eucharist is celebrated at a wedding.

#### Remarriage after Divorce:

The Canons of the Episcopal Church make provisions for marriage of divorced persons after counseling with the parish clergy and with the written consent of the bishop. In every case, a divorce must have been final for one year prior to application to the bishop. The normal time required for counseling is three (3) months. The Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina may require thirty (30) days to consider the application. The bishop will not consider an application for third marriage. Holy Matrimony is understood in the Episcopal Church to be a lifelong union of husband and wife, The provision for remarriage after divorce is based on God's promise of grace and forgiveness to those whose sins are confessed and repented.

#### Assisting Clergy:

If the assistance of a minister other than a member of St. John's Parish staff is desired, please inform the officiating priest during premarital instruction. Non-Episcopal ministers and Episcopal clergy from outside the Diocese of South Carolina must be approved by our bishop.

#### Rehearsal:

Normally, the officiating priest, organist, and wedding coordinator will meet with the bride and groom and members of the wedding party for a rehearsal the evening prior to the wedding. The officiating priest will conduct the rehearsal and

arrange placement of all participants. Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal. Signing of the license and the parish register will take place then, Before the rehearsal, determine where you would like family members and close friends to be seated. Also decide which family members (traditionally mothers and grandmothers) will be escorted to their pews after the general seating ends and just before the procession begins. Assign a groomsman to escort each in before the wedding and out at the conclusion of the service.

The use of very young children as flower girls and ring bearers often seems like a good idea, but frequently proves to be a problem, with children refusing to perform as required, Be sure that children you invite to participate are able to do their part.

### Fees:

#### Weddings at St. John's Episcopal Parish:

Members:	none
Non-members:	\$1000 donation* +
Clergy honorarium:	
Members:	\$ donation
Non-members:	\$400 donation +
Church Organist:	
With rehearsal:	\$200
No rehearsal:	\$175
Rehearsal each soloists:	\$25
Rehearsal each instrumentalist	\$25
Sexton:	\$100

The definition of a member of St. John's Parish as stated in our By-Laws in Article III, Section 2 is: All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and whose names have been duly recorded in the Parish Register, who regularly support the church in a manner known to the treasurer, and who have communed at least three (3) times in the past year are members in good standing.

**All fees are to be paid 30 days prior to the day of the wedding at the church office.** Please make all checks for use of facilities to St. John's Parish. Make separate checks payable to the organist, soloists, instrumentalists, and sexton. The Clergy honorarium should be given to the officiating priest(s) at the rehearsal. *All fees are subject to change to accommodate rising costs.*