



Saint Anselm's

The Sacrament of HOLY MATRIMONY

Congratulations to you both on your decision to marry. We are happy that you are considering Saint Anselm's for your wedding.

What follows are answers to the questions most asked by engaged couples. These guidelines have evolved over time and are not meant to be restrictive, but to answer your questions about what is appropriate for the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at Saint Anselm's.

Planning a wedding can be a stressful activity. We hope these guidelines help to answer your questions early on, so you can both fully enjoy your day when it comes.

Who May be Married at Saint Anselm's?

Christian marriage is a sacramental act between two persons who, in the presence of God and God's people, commit themselves to each other in body and spirit. While we may strive to be accommodating of non-members, ideally the couple is expected to be an active part of the Saint Anselm's community that is bearing witness to their mutual pledge.

The national canons of the Episcopal Church require that at least one person be a baptized Christian.

When one or both parties have been previously divorced, permission to remarry be sought from the Episcopal Bishop of Long Island. The priest at Saint Anselm's must petition the Bishop on behalf of the couple.

No petition to the Bishop will be made until at least one year has passed since the issuance of a divorce decree, annulment, or death of a prior spouse. In addition, at least two months must be provided for the processing of the petition. This requires close attention to the scheduling of both the ceremony and the issuance of a marriage license.

Please note, evidence of compliance with standing decrees regarding alimony, child support, and child custody will be sought prior to a petition being made to the Bishop.

Will there be Pre-Marital Counseling?

The Episcopal Church requires pre-marital counseling with the priest. This is usually accomplished in 2 - 3 sessions, though in some cases the clergy may require the couple

to seek additional outside premarital counseling prior to the wedding ceremony. The focus of the meetings with the clergy is mainly to help the couple explore their coming marriage relationship more fully, and the nature of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The wedding date will be definitely scheduled when the premarital counseling has been completed.

How is the Marriage Scheduled?

Couples should first contact Barbara Dougherty in the Parish Office at 631.744.7730 or visit the "Getting Married" page on the parish website. Once the information sheet has been completed and returned to the church office, the priest will contact the couple in order to determine the next step. Weddings are often held on Saturday, but other days are acceptable. The latest a Wedding is scheduled on a Saturday is 2 p.m. so as not to interfere with the regularly scheduled 5 p.m. mass. The wedding rehearsal customarily occurs the day before the ceremony. It strongly is recommended that no reservations be made for the reception until a firm date has been established on the parish calendar by the priest once the premarital counseling has been completed.

What is included in the Marriage Ceremony?

We only use The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage as found in the Book of Common Prayer. To retain the integrity of this beautiful liturgy, alternative prayers and liturgies are not accommodated. Additionally, since our liturgy identifies the ring(s) as the physical symbol for the sacrament, competing symbols -- unity candles, etc. -- cannot be accommodated. The priest will arrange the details of the service with the couple. Family and/or friends are encouraged to participate by doing one of the scripture readings or leading a psalm.

May Visiting Clergy Participate in the Wedding?

Yes. Visiting members of the clergy may participate in the wedding service at the discretion of Saint Anselm's priest.

Who selects the Music?

The musical offerings in the wedding are selected and arranged in consultation with the Rector and Organist. Should there be interest in having guest musicians participate in the service, these individuals and their musical selections are also arranged in consultation. The fees for guest musicians are negotiated by the couple and paid directly to those individuals.

How may the Church be Decorated?

Barbara Dougherty, in the church office, can notify the parish florist if you should decide to purchase flowers for the ceremony. These flowers may be donated for use at the altar for the Sunday following your ceremony.

How much time will we need at the Church?

The Wedding Ceremony itself can last anywhere from a half-hour to an hour, depending on the amount of music the couple chooses, and whether or not Holy Communion is included. Generally, we reserve a three hour time block for each wedding: one hour before the ceremony to arrive and prepare, one hour for the ceremony itself, and one hour after the ceremony for photos following the ceremony. During peak wedding season it is possible that more than one wedding will be scheduled on the same day. On such occasions in the past, couples have communicated with each other beforehand and shared the cost of flowers if they have similar preferences.

When is the Rehearsal?

The Wedding Rehearsal is usually the afternoon or evening before the wedding, at a time agreed to with the priest. It usually takes about an hour. This should also be scheduled in advance. All members of the wedding party should attend. Please note, the quality of the ceremony is the direct consequence of the quality of the rehearsal. Please make sure that all in attendance at the rehearsal are on time and committed to making the rehearsal a success.

What Documents are Necessary?

A marriage license must be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk within sixty days of your wedding date. You are to give the license to the priest at your wedding rehearsal. You and your witnesses will sign the license on your wedding day. The church will take care of mailing the license to the Town Clerk's office. You should receive your official marriage license directly from the Town Clerk's office about two months after your wedding.

As a reminder, if you were previously married, additional paperwork must be completed and sent to the Bishop for approval. Copies of court orders and decrees, including divorce decrees, alimony agreements and child support orders must be provided to the priest in order for the petition to the Bishop to be made. Once the petition is filed with the Bishop, a response time of two months is a reasonable expectation.

All couples seeking to be married in the Episcopal Church must sign and return to the church office a completed Information Sheet and Declaration of Intent.

What Fees are there?

For active members of Saint Anselm's, there is a fee of \$500 for use of the church, a \$150 fee for the organist, and a \$50 fee for the sexton are required. A gift to the clergy discretionary fund is customary.

For non-members, a \$1,000 fee for use of the church is required, along with \$150 fee for the organist, and a \$50 fee for the sexton are required. A gift to the clergy discretionary fund is customary.