

St. George's Episcopal Church

Wedding Customary



We welcome your enquiry concerning marriage at St. George's Episcopal Church in New Orleans. The following information summarizes our wedding policies and procedures. You are encouraged to read this document carefully. If you have questions you are invited to call the parish office (504-899-2811) and ask to speak with our Wedding Coordinator. (Updated November 2021)

INTRODUCTION

In the Christian Church, marriage is a Sacrament, and a solemn and public covenant between two persons declared in the presence of God. It is intended that the created union be lived out with the support of the Church ever after and, therefore, in its fullest understanding, marriage is a community event. The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, as the ritual is named in the Episcopal Church, is the liturgical expression and culmination of these beliefs.

The nuptial liturgy is meant to communicate the core tenets of what we believe to be true about the nature of Christian marriage: that it is a sacramental sign of God's love for his creation and Jesus Christ's love for his holy Church for which he died. The Church's teaching concerning the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is that it be mutually and voluntarily engaged, that it be monogamous, and lifelong. Therefore, as the Book of Common Prayer proclaims, "Marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God."

OUR CHURCH CANONS AND PRACTICES

The canons of the Episcopal Church require that at least one of the bridal couple be a baptized Christian, that the ritual be witnessed by at least two other adults, and that the marriage conform to the laws of the civil state where the sacrament is bestowed.

At St. George's, it is strongly preferred (by order of priority) that at least one of the bridal couple be a parishioner in good standing within our congregation, or a member of our Diocese, or a member of the Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion. The child or parent of a member in good standing at St. George's shall be accorded the same benefits as a full member in their own right. Those seeking matrimony as members in good standing are expected to hold membership at St. George's for at least six months prior to the marriage date. Those meeting these criteria may schedule a meeting with the Rector in order to discuss their desire to be married at St. George's. Following such a meeting, the couple will meet with the wedding coordinator, who will guide them through much of the planning and liturgy.

For your reference, a list of criteria with regards to being a member in good standing or becoming a member in good standing is outlined in detail in this Customary under the heading Schedule of Fees.

Episcopalians in the Diocese of Louisiana and those resident in other Diocese at union with the General Convention of The Episcopal Church and the Archbishop of Canterbury who seek to be married in our parish should have their Rector or Vicar (or Warden where no priest is assigned) draft a letter to St. George's Rector requesting that their wedding take place in our Church. Clergy invited to officiate the ritual should contact the Rector before asking temporary sacramental license from the Ordinary Bishop of the Diocese.

THE DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Before any couple can be married by an Episcopal priest or in an Episcopal parish, they must agree to and sign the following Declaration, which describes the character of Christian Marriage:

WE, _____, AND _____,
UNDERSTAND THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR MARRIAGE IS FOR OUR MUTUAL JOY, FOR THE HELP AND COMFORT WE WILL GIVE TO EACH OTHER IN PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY, AND WHEN IT IS GOD'S WILL. FOR THE GIFT AND HERITAGE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR NURTURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF GOD.

WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MARRIAGE IS TO BE UNCONDITIONAL, MUTUAL, EXCLUSIVE, FAITHFUL, AND LIFELONG; AND WE ENGAGE TO MAKE THE UTMOST EFFORT TO ACCEPT THESE GIFTS AND FULFILL THESE DUTIES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD AND THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

This Declaration can be found as a form suitable for submission in the Appendix of this Customary.

PREMARITAL INSTRUCTION

The Episcopal Church requires preparation for marriage, generally referred to as premarital counseling. Because the needs of individual couples will vary, the time necessary for premarital counseling must be adjusted to reflect those needs. A minimum of three sessions, with both parties present, is normative. Additional attendance at other kinds of premarital instruction may be required.

In situations where either or both parties are living out of town, it is usually possible to make arrangements for counseling to be done by another Episcopal priest elsewhere. Those arrangements ought to be made as early as possible with the counseling priest or accredited layperson. A written evaluation from the provider of such counseling is required by the Rector of this parish.

No announcement of the wedding should be made, nor should invitations be posted until final approval of the marriage is certified by the Rector of St. George's.

CONCERNING MARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE

Marriage after divorce is permitted within the Episcopal Church. However, a minimum of one year must have passed from the date of the final decree of divorce and without the consent of the Bishop, canon law prohibits clergy from solemnizing the marriage of anyone who was been divorced. Generally speaking, the Bishop responds within thirty days in regard to a priest's request to solemnize a second marriage. In order to receive the Bishop's consent, the Rector must write a formal letter to the Bishop stating that he has seen copies of the decree(s) of divorce, believes that the couple has done appropriate work in regard to addressing the issues surrounding the failure of the previous marriage(s), and believes in good conscience that the couple is prepared to enter into covenantal life together. It is recommended strongly, therefore, that before seeking marriage in the Church, individuals who have been divorced seek appropriate counseling in addition and prior to the premarital counseling offered by the Church.

Individuals who meet the requirements of this Customary but who are twice divorced (or more) should make an appointment with the Rector.

THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

It is required that couples wishing to marry comply with all pertinent laws of the State of Louisiana. Such compliance is indicated to the officiating priest by the presentation of a Marriage License. Licenses for Orleans Parish can be obtained at either the Algiers Courthouse on the West Bank or at the City Hall Annex in Benson Tower (formerly the Dominion Building) in the New Orleans central business district.

TIME & DATE OF THE LITURGY

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage at St. George's involves the participation of many church staff and volunteers; therefore, adequate advance notice is essential. The bridal couple will want to talk with the Rector and make arrangements as far in advance as feasible in order to reduce scheduling difficulties. Planning and scheduling six to twelve months in advance is usual, though liturgies have come together well with less. Regardless of the circumstances, by canon law St. George's may not marry any couple without a minimum of thirty days' notice.

CHURCH AVAILABILITY

Weddings are customarily held on Saturdays, with the time of the liturgy set between 10 A.M. and 7 P.M., though other days of the week are negotiable at the discretion of the Rector. Dates and times are reserved on a first-come, first served basis upon receipt of the bridal couple's deposit and completion of a signed original wedding agreement (a template is provided as an Appendix in this Customary). Outside of the regular Masses of Sunday, wherein parishioners in good standing may choose to be married, the Sacrament of Marriage is not offered on Sunday. For extraordinary cause, marriage may be undertaken during the season of Lent, but never from the Saturday before Holy Week to Easter Sunday inclusive. Special permission may be given for the Saturday after Easter Sunday. The Sacrament is also withheld on the following days: New Year's Eve, Lundi Gras, Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

ALTAR GUILD AND WEDDING COORDINATOR

The Altar Guild and Wedding Coordinator (and a sacristan if needed) for the parish are charged with the responsibility of assisting the officiating priest with all arrangements for the liturgy. One or more will be present at both the rehearsal and the marriage to assist and support the bridal party, and to ensure the smooth flow of the liturgy, itself. The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a Sacrament of the Church and the liturgy must be conducted according to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer and the directives of our Bishop; therefore, outside bridal consultants are not permitted to direct the rehearsal or the marriage rite. Analogous assistance is the ministry of our Altar Guild and Wedding Coordinator.

THE REHEARSAL

The purpose of the liturgy rehearsal is to give the bridal party the opportunity to become familiar with the rite and enable them to experience the liturgy as intended (that is, as a form of worship). Both parties will participate fully in the rehearsal. The officiating priest, assisted by either the Altar Guild and the Wedding Coordinator, will be responsible for the actual conduct of the rehearsal.

Wedding rehearsals are normally held on the day before the wedding. Except in extremely unusual circumstances, rehearsals will not be scheduled to begin after 6 P.M. The rehearsal will take about an hour and the church will be opened prior to the rehearsal 30 minutes before. The entire service, including the seating of relatives and the entrance procession will be reviewed.

It is important for all members of the bridal party to attend the rehearsal and for everyone to appear *on time* - this is in consideration of other activities within the parish.. The clergy and assisting members of the Altar Guild are only expected to be in attendance at the rehearsal for one hour.

SUMMARY

Holy Matrimony is a Sacrament of the Church and takes place in the context of worship. As in every liturgy of this parish, the Rector is the final arbiter for determining the appropriateness of any and all arrangements and details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Clergy: All liturgy at St. George's is conducted under the supervision of the parish Rector. At a couple's request, the Rector may invite an Episcopal priest from another Parish (or another diocese with the consent of the Bishop of Louisiana) to officiate the Sacrament. The Diocese of Louisiana does not permit a Deacon to pronounce or bless marriages, though one may exercise traditional diaconal ministry within the context of the Marriage Rite. In circumstances where the couple wishes to include a member of the Roman Catholic clergy, it is requested that the Rector be contacted immediately as certain arrangements must be coordinated.

Orders of Service: Whilst the entirety of the Marriage Rite, exclusive of readings, is contained in the Book of Common Prayer, St. George's will in most cases produce a simple service leaflet printed on plain copy paper for the ready reference of our guests as a part of the wedding's base fee.

At their own expense, the bridal couple may choose to employ an offsite printer. St. George's is glad to recommend local printers for such work; however, a professionally produced service booklet is subject to final review and approval by the Rector.

The Nuptial Mass: Since the Marriage Rite is all to do with communion and fellowship, it is fitting that Holy Eucharist be celebrated as well. The decision to celebrate the marriage as a Nuptial Mass is made by the couple with the advice and counsel of the officiating priest. In liturgies where Mass is said, all baptized Christians will be invited to receive Communion.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Licensed Eucharistic Ministers from St. George's or other parishes are welcome to assist in the distribution of the chalice. Requests for particular individuals to assist should be made to the officiating priest.

Readers: It is desirable that the Lessons from the Old and New Testaments be read by lay persons. Lay readers should be chosen no later than the time of the rehearsal liturgy. Readings of Scripture may be drawn from these versions of the Bible: The

Authorized (King James) Version, the Revised Standard, or the New Revised Standard.

Acolytes: Family and friends who have been trained as acolytes are welcome to serve in this ministry. St. George's will provide an acolyte when desired or out of necessity when Mass is celebrated.

Wedding Music: The bridal couple must contact St. George's Director of Sacred Music for a music consultation at least 3 months before the blessing of the marriage. The Director has first right of refusal for all nuptial liturgies at St. George's and will endeavor to find a replacement or supplemental musicians if necessary, assist in the selection of instrumental music, as well as help in choosing congregational or choral music.

In keeping with the understanding of marriage as a Sacrament of the Church, music during the liturgy must be sacred by nature of its invention and character. Music is provided only at the designated points in the liturgy given by the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.

All hymnody must come from sources authorized for use by the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church (Hymnal 1982, Hymnal 1940, Lift Every Voice and Sing I & II, Wonder, Love, and Praise, &c.) and the parish must have or secure the appropriate licenses to distribute and perform them.

All music, regardless of the Officiant, must be approved by the Director of Sacred Music and the Rector.

For your reference, a list of Suggestions for Wedding Music with links to the music is found in the Appendix of this Customary. Also provided is a Liturgy and Music Planning Sheet and Music Guideline. Please fill in these forms, sign and return to the Sacred Music Director one month prior to the wedding.

Decoration of the Church: St. George's is a lovely, historic Church with a beautiful Nave and Sanctuary. There is a typical ornamentation of the Church for wedding services that includes pew candles and flowers. These embellishments are aesthetically pleasing and appropriate for all marriage liturgies.

Flowers: A private florist should be chosen to provide flowers for your wedding. The only flowers permitted at the celebration of a marriage (in addition to a limited application on the pew candles) are two vases of flowers at the Low Altar and a

wedding spray centered above the High Altar. Any wedding sprays at the low altar or high altar are permitted to be transported immediately to the reception, however it is acceptable that one be left for the services the next day and delivered to the sick and shut-in after the Sunday service. The Sunday bulletin will identify the flowers as given in thanksgiving for the marriage. Any flower boxes in the Undercroft also must be removed immediately after the wedding by the florist in charge. All decisions concerning flowers must be made prior to the wedding date.

The Altars and the Aisle: The liturgical color for a wedding is white or gold, though the color of the altar flowers remains unrestricted. Pew markers may be supplied by a florist. Any flower or decorations applied to the pew candles must be removed immediately following the service. Altar candles and ambo torches are the only candles used. Extra candelabra or so-called unity candles will not be a part of the liturgy. Aisle runners are hazardous and are not permitted.

For your reference, a Floral and Decoration Guideline is found in the Appendix of this Customary. Please sign and return one month prior to the wedding ceremony.

Photography: Whilst the Parish is sensitive to the desire of the bridal couple to preserve this important moment in their lives, it is also concerned that the dignity and reverence of the liturgy be maintained, and that the congregants' experience of worship not be compromised. The cooperation of the bridal couple and the entire bridal party is sought and appreciated. Photographers will be instructed by the Wedding Coordinator where and when they may use flash photography and this will be at the discretion of the priest who conducts the ceremony.

As a general rule,

- Pictures may be taken during the movement in, provided it does not impede the flow of the procession.
- At the exchange of the vows and rings, photographs may be taken from a position on the Nave floor, adjacent to the Low Altar.
- A stationary video camera may be placed in the church Chancel, but no additional lighting.
- Audio taping is permitted, provided that no additional microphones are required.

- All photographic, video, and audio equipment must be emplaced and ready thirty minutes prior to the liturgy.

Photos may, of course, be taken either before or after the liturgy. The Wedding Coordinator will be happy to provide assistance and advice. Prior to the liturgy, the Wedding Coordinator will arrive at the Church no earlier than two hours in advance. Following the liturgy, extended photography sessions can be difficult for the wedding guests waiting for a reception and for the Altar Guild and Sexton, who need to reset the Church for Sunday Mass. A workable solution is to complete all but one or two photos prior to the service, with no longer than a 30 minute photo session after the wedding.

The bridal party must vacate the Nave 30 minutes before the liturgy begins so that a worshipful silence can be maintained for our congregants.

For your reference, a Photography Guideline is found in the Appendix of this Customary. Please sign and return one month prior to the wedding ceremony.

Consumption of Alcohol Prior to the Liturgy: Both the sacred liturgy and the civil contract of a marriage require a reasonable and sober mind. If either person of the bridal couple smell of alcohol or appear inebriated, the liturgy will not proceed and the congregation will be dismissed. No member of the bridal party or congregation demonstrating similar impairment shall serve as a signatory witness on any Ecclesiastical or Civil document.

Receptions: When available, the Undercroft may be reserved for wedding receptions and should be requested at the same time as use of the Church is arranged. A custodian's services are included in the reception fee. Because of the requirements in preparing for Sunday Mass, receptions held in the Undercroft on Saturdays shall not end later than 9 P.M.

Dressing at the Church: Members of the bridal party may use the designated Bridal Room downstairs as dressing rooms for the liturgy. Classroom equipment and supplies, and room furniture, if moved for convenience, should be put back in order before leaving the Church. Smoking is prohibited throughout our campus and the consumption of alcohol in the classrooms is likewise forbidden. Someone in the bridal party should remove all personal belongings from these rooms immediately after the liturgy. The Parish is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Miscellanea:

- A guestbook may be displayed and signed in the Narthex before the liturgy, but not afterward. However, it is suggested for the sake of expediency that all such signing take place at the reception.
- Rice, confetti, bird seed, and bubbles shall not be used while indoors (including the Tower). Bubbles and seed may be used once the bridal couple has exited the great doors of the Church. Rice and confetti will not be used anywhere on St. George's property.
- If the size of the wedding indicates the need for extra help, a sacristan may be obtained in coordination with the Wedding Coordinator.
- Consumption of alcohol is not permitted on church property except at the reception in the Undercroft. In accordance with Diocesan canons, hard liquor is never permitted; non-alcoholic beverages in equal quantity and prominence must be offered if beer and wine are served.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

There are several ways to get married at St. George's Episcopal Church. These different methods exist to meet a variety of pastoral as well as financial needs.

1. Any couple meeting the criteria set forth in this Customary may be married at no cost on Saturdays at 10:00 A.M. (exclusive of the withheld dates in the section "Church Availability") at the Church's High Altar. There will be no Bulletins printed by the Church, though couples are free to print their own Order of Service. The entire congregation may not number more than 25 people. No music will be provided but may be requested for a fee of \$250.
2. Any couple where either person is qualified as a member in good standing may be married at no cost on any Sunday (exclusive of the withheld dates in the section "Church Availability") at one of the regular Masses of Sunday. Musical accompaniment will be provided at no cost, as well as print bulletins. A member in good standing will meet the following criteria: A) They must be a pledging member of St. George's Episcopal Church, B) One or both parties have been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, and C) One or both parties have received Communion at least three times over the past year before the marriage.

3. Any couple where either person of the bridal couple are a member in good standing may also be married on a Saturday for a fee of \$1200. A member in good standing will meet the following criteria: A) They must be a pledging member of St. George's Episcopal Church, B) One or both parties have been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, and C) One or both parties have received Communion at least three times over the past year before the marriage. The fee includes use of the church, a simple bulletin (*a template is included as Appendix 6 to this Customary*), music consultation and performance of 5 pieces and the guidance of the Wedding Coordinator in preparation for the ceremony and during the ceremony. Flowers provided by the church are an additional fee of \$250 and are limited to a simple arrangement placed on a pedestal behind the altar. A reception may also be held in the undercroft for an additional fee of \$500, which only includes the use of the room itself.
4. Any couple where either person of the bridal couple chooses to consider becoming a member in good standing of St. George's Episcopal Church may be married on any Saturday for a fee of \$1200 (exclusive of the withheld dates in the section "Church Availability") as long as the following criteria are met before the wedding: A) A separate meeting (before and exclusive of the three premarital instructions) to talk with the priest about church membership, B) A meeting with the treasurer or stewardship leader to establish a pledge (before premarital instruction), C) the transfer of a membership Letter to St. Georges (if the couple are already Episcopalian) or the creation of a Letter if they are new to the Church (before premarital instruction begins), D) One or both parties are Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, and E) One or both parties must have received Communion at St. George's on no fewer than 3 occasions in the last year.
5. Any bridal couple who are not members of St. George's Episcopal Church may be married on a Saturday for a fee of \$2750. This fee includes the following: use of the church, a simple bulletin (a template is included as an appendix to this Customary), music consultation and performance of 5 pieces and the guidance of the Wedding Coordinator in preparation for the ceremony and during the ceremony. Flowers provided by the church are an additional fee of \$250 and are limited to a simple arrangement placed on a pedestal behind the altar. A reception may also be held in the undercroft for

an additional fee of \$1500, which only includes the use of the room and kitchen and cleanup by our Sexton.

**CONCERNING THE CLERGY
GIFT (OR HONORARIUM)**

As a Sacrament of the Church, marriage is offered by the priest without charge; however, in thanksgiving for their marriage, couples may make a gift to the clergy person officiating the service. This is optional, yet customary.

CONCERNING DEPOSITS AND RESERVATIONS

In order to secure a particular date and time for a marriage, the Parish requires a \$500 deposit, which will be applied to your total bill. The Parish cannot hold dates without receipt of the deposit. A wedding agreement signed by the responsible party also must be completed when the deposit is collected.

APPENDIX 1

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

The Rite of Holy Matrimony

We, _____ and

WE, _____, AND _____,
UNDERSTAND THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH THAT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR
OUR MARRIAGE IS FOR OUR MUTUAL JOY, FOR THE HELP AND COMFORT
WE WILL GIVE TO EACH OTHER IN PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY, AND
WHEN IT IS GOD’S WILL. FOR THE GIFT AND HERITAGE OF CHILDREN AND
THEIR NURTURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF GOD.

WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MARRIAGE IS TO BE UNCONDITIONAL,
MUTUAL, EXCLUSIVE, FAITHFUL, AND LIFELONG; AND WE ENGAGE TO
MAKE THE UTMOST EFFORT TO ACCEPT THESE GIFTS AND FULFILL THESE
DUTIES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD AND THE SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Signature of the Bride

Signature of the Groom

Signature of the Priest

Date

APPENDIX 2

Suggestions for Wedding Music

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a service of Christian worship and is to be ordered as is any liturgy of the Church. Popular music or “show tunes” are not permitted. Certain well-known pieces of “classical music” are likewise suppressed because of their unsuitability for religious settings. The Bridal Chorus from Wagner’s *Lohengrin* and the Wedding March from Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* are subject to this rule. Faure’s *Pie Jesu*, though sacred, is rejected because it is derived from the Mass of the Dead.

Contemporary pieces such as “The Wedding Song” are permitted at the discretion of the Rector.

The following list is comprised of pieces of music that have worked well at St. George’s with organ, piano, and other instrumentation - please note that some pieces are applicable in more than one part of the service. Links to Youtube performances are also provided. Vocal solos within the context of the marriage service as defined in the Book of Common Prayer are an enhancement of the liturgy and are encouraged. The Director of Sacred Music can assist with the selection of music and the soloist.

Nuptial liturgies require music at these occasions: Prelude – approximately 15-20 minutes, processional music for the seating of the family, processional music for the bridal party, processional music for the bride, and music for the procession out. If Mass is said, additional music will be necessary to cover the Communion.

Preludes

[Intermezzo - Mascagni](#)

[The Swan - Saint-Saens](#)

[Fantasy on Sleepers Wake - J.S. Bach](#)

[Largo from Winter \(4 Seasons\) - Vivaldi](#)

[Meditation from Thais - Massenet](#)

Sheep may safely graze (Bach)

Hymne (Vangelis)

Largo (Handel)

Arioso (Bach)<https://youtu.be/ASU9HxBm0nk>

Processionals for Mothers, Bridesmaids and Bride

[Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach](#)

[Canon in D by Pachelbel](#)

[Air from the Water Music Suite by Handel](#)

[Traumerei by Schumann](#)

[Fantasy on Sleepers Wake by Bach](#)

[La Rejouissance by Handel](#)

[Allegro Maestoso by Handel](#)

[Te Deum by Charpentier](#)

[Rondeau by Mouret](#)

[Trumpet Tune by Purcell](#)

[La Grace by Telemann](#)

Air on the G String (Bach) <https://youtu.be/PyMz0w2UC9s>

St. Anthony Chorale (Hady) <https://youtu.be/rWjBgKROTzA>

Spring (from the Four Seasons) (Vivaldi) https://youtu.be/yY7vH2x5E_8

Ode to Joy (Beethoven)

Hymn 410 "Praise My Soul" (Hymnal 1982)

Arioso (Bach) <https://youtu.be/ASU9HxBm0nk>

A Wedding Fanfare (Bliss) <https://youtu.be/Kxg3xme-oEY>

Prince of Denmark March (Clarke) <https://youtu.be/Qb2CChm93dl>

Trumpet Voluntary (Stanley) <https://youtu.be/0SoBzBFBhaQ>

Piano Suggestions

Canon in F (O'Neill Bros. Arrangement)

Minuet in G (Bach)

Minuet in C (Beethoven)

Vocal Suggestions

[The Gift of Love by Hopson](#)

[Bridal Prayer by Copeland](#)

[Bist du bei mir by Bach](#)

[Panis Angelicus by Franck](#)

[How Beautiful by Paris](#)

[One Bread One Body](#)

[Make Me a Channel of Your Peace](#)

[Ave Maria \(Schubert\)](#)

[Ave Maria \(Bach-Gounod\)](#)

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Hymns as Instrumentals

Prayer of St. Francis (Frischmann)

Hymne (Vangelis)

Amazing Grace

Simple Gifts

Hymns for Singing - Communion, Gospel, Offertory

Your Love, O God, has called us here (#353)

Holy, Holy, Holy (#362)

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (#366)

Love divine, all loves excelling (#657)

Be thou my vision (#488)

Amazing grace (#671)

Lord of all Hopefulness, Lord of all Joy (#482)

For the Beauty of the Earth (#416)

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken (#522)

Hymns from the hymnal 1982 which are appropriate for Marriage or Holy Eucharist.

Recessionals

[La Rejouissance by Handel](#)

[Allegro Maestoso by Handel](#)

[Te Deum by Charpentier](#)

[Rondeau by Mouret](#)

[Trumpet Tune by Purcell](#)

Water Music a la Hornpipe (Handel)

Ode to joy (Beethoven)

Joyful, joyful (Hymnal 1982)

Finale from Water Music (Handel)

March (Purcell)

Psalm 19 (Marcello)

APPENDIX 3

MUSIC GUIDELINES

We are pleased that you wish to be married at St. George's Episcopal Church. Please read carefully the following policy concerning wedding music at St. George's.

- ✻ The Parish Organist has first right of refusal for all nuptial liturgies at St. George's and will endeavor to find a replacement or supplemental musicians if necessary, assist in the selection of instrumental music, as well as help in choosing congregational or choral music. All other musicians, either vocal or instrumental, must be approved by the Sacred Music Director.
- ✻ The fee of \$200 for the Organist is part of the entire fee paid to the church and covers 15 minutes of prelude music and up to 5 pieces performed during the service based on the list above(including any hymns sung by the congregation). Any works outside of the provided list or the 1982 hymnal, which will require purchase of music or extra preparation will add an extra fee, depending on the level of difficulty.
- ✻ We encourage the participation of the entire congregation in singing hymns since your wedding is a service of worship.
- ✻ Additional instruments, such as strings, brass or woodwinds may be used with the organ or piano during the ceremony. Professional musicians are required and the Sacred Music Director will provide a suggested list should these services be required. It is the responsibility of the bridal couple to contact and secure their services.
- ✻ The Canons and Rubrics of the Church govern the selection of music for special services, such as weddings, as well as those of Sundays and holy days. All music selections to be performed must be approved by the Sacred Music Director.

**SIGNATURE OF BRIDAL
COUPLE**_____

(only one needed)

Please sign and return one month prior to the wedding ceremony.

APPENDIX 4

Liturgy and Music Planning Sheet

PRELUDE MUSIC

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

Grandmothers

Mothers

Bridesmaids

Bride

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM

EPISTLE

GOSPEL HYMN OR MUSIC

NEW TESTAMENT READING

OFFERTORY HYMN OR MUSIC

COMMUNION HYMN OR MUSIC

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Please fill out and return one month prior to wedding ceremony.

APPENDIX 5

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

We welcome your presence as the photographer for this wedding at St George's Episcopal Church. Please read carefully the following policy:

- ❖ Early access to the church is available and must be coordinated with the Wedding Coordinator, but will be no more than two hours prior to the ceremony. Please take as many photographs as possible prior to the start of the ceremony and plan for all members of the wedding party to vacate the church at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the service. All photographs taken after the ceremony must be finished within 30 minutes.
- ❖ Pictures may be taken during the movement in, provided it does not impede the flow of the procession.
- ❖ At the exchange of the vows and rings, photographs may be taken from a position on the Nave floor, adjacent to the Low Altar.
- ❖ A stationary video camera may be placed in the church Chancel, but no additional lighting.
- ❖ Audio taping is permitted, provided that no additional microphones are required.
- ❖ All photographic, video, and audio equipment must be emplaced and ready thirty minutes prior to the liturgy.
- ❖ Please do not rearrange altar flowers, aisle candles or any other items already placed in the church for photographic purposes.
- ❖ No photographs or videos may be taken by anyone in the church during the wedding ceremony. Please inform family and friends of this custom.

I have read the Wedding Photography Guidelines and agree to abide by the customs of St. George's Episcopal Church.

SIGNATURE OF BRIDAL

COUPLE _____ (only one needed)

SIGNATURE OF PHOTOGRAPHER _____

Please sign and return to wedding coordinator one month prior to ceremony.

APPENDIX 6

FLORAL AND DECORATION GUIDELINES

- ✠ The architecture and historic design of St George's are intended to focus attention on the altar as a symbol of God's presence. In keeping with the elegant simplicity of setting, elaborate decorations are to be avoided.
- ✠ The only flowers permitted at the celebration of a marriage (in addition to a limited application on the pew candles) are two vases of flowers at the Low Altar and a wedding spray centered above the High Altar. Floral designs should be similar to those used in Sunday worship services.
- ✠ It is recommended that at least one spray of wedding flowers remain in the Church for services on the following Sunday. The Sunday bulletin will identify the flowers as given in thanksgiving for the marriage. After services, they will be delivered to the sick and shut-in.
- ✠ The altar, pulpit and lecture will be draped with white hangings. All items are to remain as placed and not to be moved. The liturgical color for a wedding is white or gold, though the color of the altar flowers remains unrestricted.
- ✠ Pew markers and decorations may be supplied by a florist but must be removed immediately following the services, as well as any flower boxes in the Undercroft or in the church.
- ✠ Altar candles and ambo torches are the only candles used and are supplied by the church. Extra candelabra or so-called unity candles will not be a part of the liturgy.
- ✠ Aisle runners are hazardous and are not permitted.
- ✠ Rice, confetti, bird seed, and bubbles shall not be used while indoors (including the Tower). Bubbles and seed may be used once the bridal couple has exited the great doors of the Church. Rice and confetti will not be used anywhere on St. George's property.
- ✠ Flowers should be delivered no later than 90 minutes prior to the ceremony and can be delivered as early as two hours prior. Any and all containers should be removed immediately following the wedding.

I have read the guidelines and agree to abide by the customs of St Georges Episcopal Church.

SIGNATURE OF BRIDAL COUPLE _____ (only one needed)

SIGNATURE OF FLORIST _____

Please sign and return to the Wedding Coordinator one month prior to the ceremony.

APPENDIX 6

WEDDING AGREEMENT (EXAMPLE)

[Today]

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
SAINT GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AND
[XXXXXX] & [XXXXXX]**

We, the undersigned, agree that the Marriage of XXXXX and XXXXX will take place at St. George's Episcopal Church of New Orleans in the evening of [Day], [Date] and will be conducted in accordance with the terms set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and St. George's parish Wedding Customary. As part of this Agreement, the aforementioned Persons will pay a nonrefundable deposit to the Church in the amount of \$500.00, which will be applied to the total agreed cost of \$2750.00. The remaining balance of \$2250 shall be paid off no fewer than seven (7) days before the day of the wedding.