

# Dearly Beloved

*an introduction to weddings  
at  
The Cathedral Church of St. Peter*

**The Cathedral Church of St. Peter**

140 Fourth Street North

St. Petersburg, Florida

(727) 822-4173

[www.spcathedral.org](http://www.spcathedral.org)

## Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St. Peter.

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At St. Peter's, we believe that one of our most important ministries is to offer welcome and hospitality. In that spirit, we are glad you are here and hope if St. Peter's is not already your spiritual home, you will consider making it so. We are also grateful to know that you are interested in having a wedding at The Cathedral Church of St. Peter.

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time for good wishes, feasting and joy. It is also an invitation for a couple to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a public and life-long covenant, celebrated in the presence of God and before a priest and congregation.

Because marriage is a commitment "not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly," we ask that you read through this booklet carefully and then talk to us about your upcoming marriage.

### A Step-by-step guide to getting married at St. Peter's

1. Read the material in this booklet.
2. If you still wish to proceed, contact the Cathedral office. An information form will be sent to you.
3. Fill out the form and return to the Cathedral office.
4. A Cathedral clergyperson will contact you to set up an appointment. *If all agree to continue forward after that meeting*, the date for your wedding will be placed on St. Peter's calendar.
5. You will meet with the clergyperson for at least two more pre-marital counseling sessions.
6. You will meet with the Flower Guild to choose flowers.
7. You will meet with the Cathedral Music Director to plan the music.
8. You and the wedding party will rehearse the wedding. A Cathedral volunteer will help coordinate both the rehearsal and the wedding.

*We expect that people will be on  
time for the rehearsal and the wedding.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

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What does the Episcopal Church require?

Do I need to be a member?

What if I am divorced?

What does the State of Florida require?

How soon can the wedding be put on the calendar?

Are there times when weddings cannot take place?

Who plans the service?

What about music?

What about photography or video?

Who does the flowers?

Does the Episcopal Church use a unity candle?

What are the fees?

**All these questions are answered in this booklet. Please read carefully. If still interested, call the Cathedral office at 727-822-4173.**

## **What does the Episcopal Church require?**

At least one of the parties to the marriage must be a baptized Christian, and the wedding ceremony must be attested by at least two witnesses. You will meet at least three times with the officiating priest during the course of your preparation.

## **Do I need to be a member?**

We ask that you worship regularly with us on Sundays or weekdays at St. Peter's. We believe that marriage is not just a ceremony in our building, it is part of the community of believers and seekers here. We hope that at some point you would consider becoming members of St. Peter's Cathedral. Your individual spiritual journeys, and your marriage journey will be enriched by belonging to a faith community.

We will consider a wedding here if you are a member in good standing at another Episcopal church which is out-of-town. We understand that sometimes family arrangements make it easier to be married in the family's church rather than the church one is regularly attending. In this case we usually make arrangements for the clergyperson in that church to do the pre-marital counseling.

## **What if I am divorced?**

In the Episcopal Church, we observe the following procedure if you are seeking to be remarried. Clergy, in consultation with the couple, are asked to determine: that there is evidence that the prior marriage has been dissolved by a final judgment or decree of a civil court of competent jurisdiction; that continuing concern is being shown for the well-being of the former spouse, and of any children; and that the Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida is notified.

*Please note:* If you have been married twice before, the Bishop must give written consent to the marriage.

### **What does the State of Florida require?**

You must obtain a wedding license (which requires proof of identification: birth certificate, passport, driver's license, baptismal certificate).

The downtown office is located at 545 1st Ave N, Room 101. The hours are 8:00 AM–5:00 PM, Monday-Friday. The cost is **\$93.50** for Florida residents, with a three-day waiting period.

If you have had the four hour counseling, the waiting period is waived and the cost can be reduced by up to **\$32.50**. Your meetings with the clergy will fulfill the counseling requirement. Before you get your license, we will provide you with proof of the counseling so you may receive a reduced rate if you are a Florida resident.

### **How soon can the wedding be put on the calendar?**

The date will be chosen after your initial meeting with one of St. Peter's clergy. As we deal with a busy schedule, the longer the lead time, the more choice we all have in setting the time and date. Both the wedding and the rehearsal dates and times are scheduled by the officiating priest with whom you are working.

As you plan, please consider that you may arrive up to one hour before the service and stay up to 30 minutes after the wedding. We ask that you take responsibility for being on time. Because of the vibrant life of St. Peter's community, we often have other services and activities scheduled within a reasonable time either before or after your wedding.

### **Are there times when weddings cannot take place?**

Weddings are generally celebrated on weekdays, or on Saturdays. Weddings are not performed in Lent, because of the penitential nature of that season. If you're not sure of the dates of Lent in a given year, the clergy will be glad to let you know what they are. *Throughout the year, priority goes to scheduled worship services.* The Dean must give prior approval for any exception to this rule.

### **Who plans the service?**

The officiating clergy person works with the couple to strike a balance that reflects both their relationship and the Episcopal tradition.

We encourage the participation of friends and family in the reading of lessons and offering of prayers. Clergy of other parishes or traditions may assist in the service, but the invitation comes from, and after consultation with, the Dean of the church.

*Our experience is that these next two areas tend to cause needless misunderstandings and conflicts. Please read these sections carefully.*

### **What about music?**

The Cathedral Organist will work with you (or assign another musician) to discuss options and to begin planning. Music at the Cathedral is some of the finest in the city. Our musicians will be creative and flexible when helping you choose the best music for your wedding. Bring your ideas and preferences to them.

Because of the sacred nature of the Marriage Rite, music outside of the sacred repertoire (popular songs, show tunes, etc.) is best included in your reception. St. Peter's Canon for Music Director must be consulted and give consent if other musicians are to be invited.

*The music of the service is ultimately at the discretion of the officiating priest.*

### **What about photography or video?**

We strive to maintain a joyful yet worshipful atmosphere in the wedding service. Good professional photographers understand this, and they will agree to minimize distractions and respect the sacred nature of the building and the liturgy.

**photography or video (cont.)**

The best way to photograph wedding participants is *before or after the service*. Weather permitting, the garden makes an excellent area for group pictures before the wedding. The steps to the sanctuary also lend themselves to beautiful photographs. Please remember that those who are in charge of securing the building will be ready to leave 30 minutes after the wedding service is over.

**No Flash** photographs may be taken once the service begins. Flash may be used for the procession, provided that the equipment and photographer remain behind the congregation at the west end of the church or chapel. *Please do tell friends and relatives not to use flash cameras or to stand up in the middle of the service to take a picture.* It is disruptive to the service and does not respect the sacredness of the ceremony or building.

Videotaping is permitted during the service, with available light only, with the videographer adhering to the same restrictions as above.

### **Who does the flowers?**

St. Peter's Flower Guild creates all the arrangements for our services. When two weddings are scheduled on the same day, white flowers will be used, unless the wedding takes place on a festival day or during a festival season.

At the festival seasons of Christmas, Easter, or Pentecost, the Cathedral will be decorated appropriately and no concessions can be made as to color. Easter and Christmas decorations remain in the church two weeks.

The flowers on the altar, on the side chapel and any on the columns in the church, will remain in thanksgiving for your wedding. All other flowers and greens must be removed within 30 minutes after the wedding.

The flowers that are carried by the wedding party are provided through a florist of your choice and paid for by you. If you wish to have pew bows or flowers on the pews, you may make those arrangements with the florist.

\* Please speak with our Flower Guild Coordinator who will review the Wedding Flowers Customary for information about our flower packages and pricing.

*Final decisions about decorations and their placement are at the discretion of the officiating priest.*

**Does the Episcopal Church use a unity candle?**

Only candles normally used at the services of the Cathedral may be used for the Marriage Service. These are the candles on the High Altar, the Chapel Altar, and Paschal Candle used during the Easter season. For safety reasons no other candles or candelabra are permitted. There is no ceremony of a Unity Candle in the Celebration and Blessing of Marriage in the Episcopal Church. It is suggested that this ceremony might take place at the reception.

Please Note: We do not throw flower petals, rice, confetti, bird seed or any other similar substance within or without the Cathedral building.

**What are the fees?**

When we meet with couples planning weddings, we often find that careful lists have been made of the costs: reception site, food, and drinks; florists and photographers; clothing and limousines. Where is the church on that list? We would ask: what value do *you* put on this item?

The basic set fees for weddings are:

**Members & their families ..... \$600 plus flowers\***

Fees include the following:

Organist	\$300
Discretionary Fund	\$250
Altar Guild	\$ 50
Flower Guild	*

## Selections:

**Preferred Marriage Rite** - The officiating clergy person works with the couple to select which marriage rites they choose based on the verbiage they prefer.

**Holy Scripture** - During the Ministry of the Word, Holy Scripture is read. The following excerpt from the *Book of Common Prayer* specifies appropriate passages from which to choose.

*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 sing or said.*

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

*When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says*

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)

## Notes

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## A Prayer

God of tenderness and strength,  
You have brought our paths together and led us to this day;  
go with us now as we travel through good times,  
through trouble, or through change.

Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.

Make us worthy of each other's best,  
and tender with each other's dreams,  
trusting in your love in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## Contact Persons at the Cathedral

### Main Office Number

727-822-4173

The Very Rev. Stephen B. Morris	Dean	
The Rev. Canon Ethan J. Cole	Canon for Congregational Life	
The Rev. Canon Brandon Peete	Canon for Hospitality	
The Rev. Sam Tallman	Priest Associate	
Mr. Dwight M. Thomas, Canon for Music & Organist		Ext. 115

Bill Buster	Sexton	
Andi Gorton	Publications	Ext. 113
Michelle Thomas	Cathedral Administrator	Ext. 114

## WORSHIP AT THE CATHEDRAL

<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I & Sermon
10:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II & Sermon

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service:** Wednesday at 12:05 p.m.

Due to coronavirus concerns, we ask that you keep your masks on, remain in your pew once seated, refrain from touching, and practice appropriate social distancing.



THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PETER