

Wedding Policies

Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist
189 George St. New Brunswick NJ 08901

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We are glad you chose to receive the sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. John the Evangelist. Weddings can be joyous, fun, stressful, overwhelming, and can carry many other emotions. The process leading up to your wedding day is designed to be a time when you continue to grow into the marriage into which God has called you.

Requirements by Civil Law:

Well in advance of your wedding, you should know the civil guidelines to getting married in the State of New Jersey. Information on that can be found at:

http://www.state.nj.us/health/vital/marriage_apply.shtml

If you are having a wedding done by a clergy person of SJE outside of the State of New Jersey, check the local guidelines of that State. The clergy person will check on his/her own ability to solemnize marriages in that State.

Requirements by Canon Law of the Episcopal Church:

- At least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism in any denomination.
- The couple has a right to contract in the State in which they intend to marry.
- At least two witnesses need to be present at the wedding
- The couple must sign the *Declaration of Intention* near the beginning of the marriage preparation time (See Appendix).
- The service used is “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage” or “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage” found in *The Book of Common Prayer*.
- If one party has previously been married to a person that is still living, the couple must fill out *Application for Episcopal Consent to Solemnization of Marriage After Divorce* (see Appendix). This document can be filled out online with the officiating clergy person at:
<http://www.newjersey.anglican.org/FormsDocs/ForClergy/Remarriage/MarriageAftDivorceApp.pdf>

Also any person seeking remarriage after divorce or annulment must show the officiating clergy person legal documentation of the dissolution of each previous marriage.

Requirements of the parish of St. John the Evangelist

- Marriage preparation with the officiating clergy person should begin six months prior to the wedding. Exceptions to this will be made at the rector’s discretion. Please note that the Canons of the Episcopal Church do not allow for less than one month of preparation without bishop’s consent.
- Normally, the rector is the officiating clergy for all weddings at SJE. Other clergy are invited to assist at the wedding. The use of other officiating clergy will be at the discretion of the rector.
- The couple will meet six times with the rector, another clergy person, or professional counselor deemed appropriate by the rector. Assuming the couple is meeting with the rector, the premarital sessions will be as follows:
 1. Theology of Marriage / Review Policies
 2. Counseling Session # 1
 3. Counseling Session # 2
 4. Counseling Session # 3
 5. Individual Sessions with Rector
 6. Planning the Wedding Ceremony
- The wedding date and time should be scheduled by the first meeting with the rector.

- The wedding license needs to be into the parish office, one week prior to the wedding. Please note that in the State of New Jersey, wedding licenses are invalid one month after issue if not used.
- There will be a Wedding Rehearsal prior to the wedding. This normally takes place the day before the wedding, but the time can be scheduled with the rector.
- If St. Joseph's Hall (the parish hall) is used for the reception or rehearsal dinner, separate arrangements need to be made with the rector.
- It is not a requirement, however, if the couple lives in the New Brunswick area and are able, they should attend Sunday services of SJE during the preparation time. This is to help them understand the theology and faith community in which they are being married.

Music

- Because the service is a worship service, music selected should be considered sacred music. Appropriate music can be found in *The Hymnal 1982*, or any published church hymnal. Any other music that is considered sacred music may be used. All music must be decided upon in collaboration with the rector.
- Any music that the couple wishes to have in the wedding that is not considered sacred music may be used as a prelude (immediately preceding the service) or postlude (immediately following the service) as decided in consultation with the rector and musician.
- Dr. Susan Huslage is the regular organist and music director at SJE. If the couple wants to use another musician, s/he needs to coordinate with Dr. Huslage at least one month prior to the wedding.
- The musician needs all special music for the wedding one month prior to the wedding.
- The couple needs to arrange for all soloists to meet with the organist at least one month prior to the wedding.

Flowers & Decorations

- The couple arranges all flowers and decorations for the wedding. Please consult with the rector about decorations and arrangement of flowers.
- While thinking about decoration, consider liturgical movement of the ceremony. You should consult with the rector on this before deciding on any decorations.
- Because the altar is used to celebrate the Eucharist, please limit flowers to two small arrangements on the altar.
- The wedding party is responsible for clean up of all decoration the church before the next scheduled St. John service.
- [If the wedding party would like to employ the services of the sexton, she needs to know two weeks ahead of time. Sexton fees will apply.]
- Flowers may be left in the church for regular Sunday services as a reminder to the parish of your wedding day.

Photography

- Because the ceremony is a worship service, flash photography is not permitted as it distracts from the sacredness of the moment, except during the procession and recession.
- Posing for photographs may take place immediately before and/or after the wedding ceremony.
- Videotaping, digital photography without flash or high speed film may be used during the ceremony if taken from a non-intrusive location, and if no artificial lighting is used.

Schedule of Fees

Building Use for Ceremony: \$300
(Check to St. John the Evangelist)

Organist: \$125
(Check to Organist)

[Parish Hall Use: Negotiated w/ Rector]
(Check to St. John the Evangelist)

[Sexton Fee: \$125]
(Check to Sexton)

[Clergy honorarium: Couple's discretion]
(Checks to Clergy)

[Soloists from SJE Choir: \$75]
(Checks to Soloists)

[Prepare & Enrich Inventory \$30]
(Check to Rector)

**Items in brackets are optional fees.*