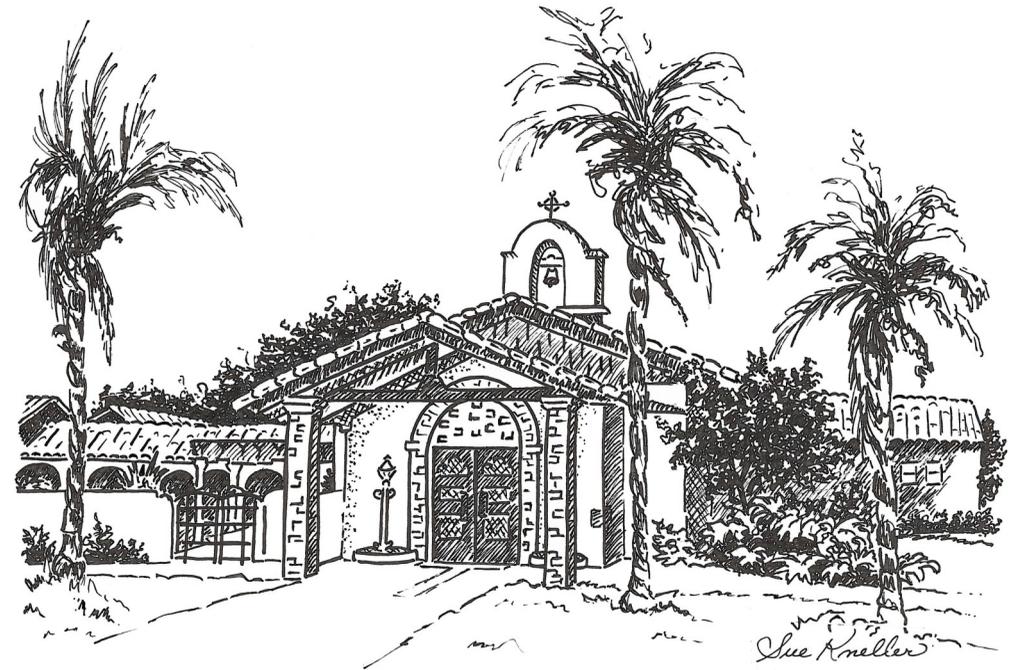


Preparing for Marriage



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Growing Into Jesus ~ Reaching Out With Love"

623 East Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, Florida 34994

Phone (772) 287-3244 FAX (772) 220-1249

www.stmarys-stuart.org

November 2015

Declaration of Intention

We,

and

Desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

Signature of the Groom

Signature of the Bride

Dated _____ A.D. _____

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:9-17

WEDDING FEES

USE OF THE CHURCH

ACTIVE MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES \$ 350.00

NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED

(Must be active pledging members for one year)

NON-PARISHIONERS \$ 850.00

DEPOSIT (REQUIRED) \$ 500.00

(non-refundable within 90 days of wedding)

OFFICIATING CLERGY (suggested Honorarium) \$ 200.00

ORGANIST (Joanne Nelson) \$ 200.00

PEW TORCHES (OPTIONAL) \$ 100.00

ROOMS FOR DRESSING - more than 1 hour \$ 100.00

OUTSIDE CHAPEL/COURTYARD (AS IS) \$ 300.00

NOTES:

A DEPOSIT OF \$500.00 IS DUE WHEN THE WEDDING IS CONFIRMED.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUPLE TO OBTAIN

A VALID MARRIAGE LICENSE.

THE MARRIAGE LICENSE MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE PARISH OFFICE

AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Rector, Clergy and all Staff	287-3244
Church Office	287-3244
Wedding Guild - Pat Northcutt	223-4039
Organist - Joanne Nelson	561-339-5298

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Dear Engaged Couple,

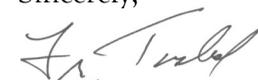
Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! One of the most wonderful joys in life is coming together with another person, knowing God has brought you together. Other than the decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ, there is no other decision that is more significant.

We at St. Mary's Episcopal Church want to do everything that we can to help you prepare for this important celebration. We look forward to meeting with you to help plan a wedding that will be both beautiful and an act of worship. We also look forward to helping you prepare for life after the wedding, with all of the joys and challenges that it will bring.

Reading this booklet will be your first step in this process of preparation. It contains helpful information that you will need to know in the weeks and months ahead. Keep it handy and consult it often.

Again, on behalf of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, my heartiest congratulation! If I can be of help at all, please let me know.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Todd Cederberg
Rector

Requirements for Marriage at St. Mary's

The couple signs a "Declaration of Intention" to signify their understanding that marriage is intended to be a life-long Christian union.

At least one member of the couple must be baptized.

If either member of the couple has been divorced, the bishop must grant permission to the clergy to perform the service. Any date for a wedding prior to permission from the bishop ought to be considered tentative.

At least one member of the couple must be an active member or active participant in the life of St. Mary's. Allowance will be made for those who may be active in other congregations but whom, for geographical or family reasons, desire to be married here.

At least six months notice must be given to the church office.

The couple will attend faithfully a course of pre-marriage preparation under the direction of either the priest assigned to do the wedding, or someone designated by him or her.

The Parish Wedding Coordinator will be assigned to your wedding to assist both clergy and the wedding party. She prepares the church and chapel and coordinates the ceremony.

Engagement is an opportunity for each couple to focus on how they can better love and serve one another in the spirit of Christ. Sexual intimacy or cohabitation during the engagement period are, therefore, discouraged. St. Mary's stands ready to help those couple who are cohabiting for economic reasons to secure adequate alternative living space until after the wedding.

Guest clergy are welcome to participate or to preside at weddings at St. Mary's, provided St. Mary's clergy are involved in the planning of the wedding and are invited to be present at the celebration.

Hymns

Now Thank We All Our God
Praise to the Lord
Come Down, O Love Divine
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Lord of All Hopefulness
O Praise Ye the Lord
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Take My Life and Let It Be
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

SOLO MUSIC

These represent only a few examples of the songs that are available to be sung at your wedding. The organist will be glad to provide others for your consideration.

He Shall Feed His Flock - Handel (Messiah)
O Lord Most Holy - Franck
The Lord's My Shepherd - various composers
If With All Your Hearts - Mendelssohn
My Heart Ever Faithful - Bach
Alleluia! - Mozart
The Lord's Prayer - Malotte
Ave Maria - Schubert, Gounod

Music Selections For Weddings

St. Mary's Episcopal Church maintains very high standards for music at Christian marriage. All musical requests must be cleared with the Parish Organist and all music used at the wedding must be sacred, liturgical, or worthy of praise to God from whom all blessing flow. Christian marriage is a rite of the Episcopal Church, and the music chosen should reflect worship, rather than just embellishment of a civil ceremony.

The wedding party may request certain organ selections for prenuptial or nuptial use, given two months prior notice. Hymns, psalms, soloist selections are available at the time of your consultation. The organist will assist in securing the desired instruments/soloists for the service. The wedding party is directly responsible for fees for any additional musicians hired. A copy of any music chosen by the family to be sung or played by relatives or friends must be submitted to the organist at least two weeks prior to the wedding so it may be learned and rehearsal may be schedule if necessary.

The organist's fee (see page 14) includes a consultation, the wedding rehearsal (if necessary), practice time, rehearsals with extra musicians and, of course, the wedding itself. Music prior to the wedding for the arrival of guests is also included in this fee. The prenuptial music is usually chosen by the organist after the consultation to reflect individual couples' tastes and preferences as well as the season. The following is a partial listing of recommended and popular choices for the procession and recession of the wedding party and the exiting of the guests.

SUGGESTED MUSIC

Organ Music at Processions

Trumpet Voluntary in D - Clarke
Trumpet Tune in D - Purcell
Canon in D - Pachelbel
Trumpet Tune in D - Johnson
Allegro Maestoso - Handel
The Heavens Declare - Marcello

(continued next page ...)

Marriage Preparation Checklist

At least 6 months prior to the anticipated wedding date:

- Schedule initial appointment to meet with clergy person who will perform the wedding. This appointment to include:
- Wedding and Rehearsal dates approved
- Time scheduled to take PREPARE inventory (\$50 fee per couple)
- If a divorce is involved, appointments are set to prepare a petition to the bishop.

After first meeting with clergy:

- Sign up for marriage preparation class
- Contact organist to schedule your dates
- Make initial contact with wedding coordinator

Three months prior to wedding:

- Contact organist to schedule consultation
- Meet with wedding coordinator

One month prior to wedding:

- Meet with organist
- Meet with officiating clergy to plan service

Two weeks prior to wedding:

- Wedding License
- Individual checks for service fees (see page 9)

Bring to rehearsal:

- Wedding leaflet

Marriage Preparation Class

If preparing for a wedding is important, much more so is preparing for marriage itself. Yet, in our culture it is too often true that couples spend more time and money on a wedding which lasts an hour than on a marriage that is supposed to last a lifetime.

We at St. Mary's care about you, and we care about your marriage. We want to do everything that we can to encourage good and healthy relationships that will endure well over time.

In order to do that, we have set up a course of **Marriage Preparation**. In it you will join with other engage couples to look at some of the most pressing challenges in our time. The topics covered include Financial Planning, Sexuality, Communication and Conflict, and Goal Setting. All of these are addressed from a distinctly Christian perspective out of a conviction that it is through Christ that we are genuinely able to love each other.

We look forward to having you in this class. Your attendance and participation will help to make it an important event for everyone.

Possible Readings for Your Wedding

Old Testament

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 (That she and I may grow old together)

Epistle

I 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, 21-22 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)
Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)
I John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Gospel

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)

A Guide to the Service

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Prelude	<i>Consult with Organist</i>
Processional	<i>Consult with Organist</i>
Opening Words	<i>Name of Officiant</i>
The Declaration of Consent	
**Hymn	<i>Consult with Organist</i>
The Ministry of the Word	<i>Suggested lessons on next page</i>
+ Old Testament	<i>Name of Readers may be included</i>
**Hymn	<i>Consult with Organist</i>
+ Epistle	<i>Name of Readers may be included</i>
**Hymn	<i>Consult with Organist</i>
Gospel	
Homily	<i>Name of Preacher</i>
The Marriage	
The Prayers	
The Blessing & Peace	
+ Holy Communion	
Recessional	<i>Consult with Organist</i>

** Hymns are appropriate at these places
+ May be omitted

Tentative Class Schedule:

Classes are schedule on an as needed basis.

- I. Introduction of Couples
Why “Christian” Marriage?
Assertiveness & Active Listening
- II. Communication
Conflict & Conflict Resolution
- III. Family of Origin
Financial Management
- IV. Intimacy & Sexuality
Personal, Couple & Family Goals
- V. The Wedding Service: A Christian Calling

Planning Your Wedding

The Church and the Outdoor Chapel

The church will accommodate around 250 people and looks reasonably full with as few as 50. There is no charge for active, pledging parish families to use the church. The church is available on Saturdays up to 3:00 p.m. and after 6:30 p.m.



The outdoor chapel/courtyard is also available.

Altar Flowers

The flowers for your wedding are to be an offering in worship to God and therefore will remain at the altar. All flowers should be fresh and not artificial. The Wedding Coordinator is acquainted with our vases. Church decorations should be completed one hour before the wedding.



Pew Torches

Pew torches are available for rent from the church. Ask the Wedding Coordinator about them.

Bride's & Groom's Room

A Bride's & Groom's Room is available for two hours before the wedding and one hour after wedding. If the Bridal Party wishes to dress at St. Mary's there is a fee (see page 14).

Important Notes for the Bride and Groom in Planning a Wedding

A priest will be assigned for every wedding at St. Mary's. That priest will make the final decisions regarding the rehearsal and wedding in consultation with the couple. Weddings are not schedule during the season of Lent.

Wedding Program

If you would like to have a printed program for your wedding, you are responsible for having it prepared and printed. The officiating clergy must approve the final draft before it is printed.

Photographs

Flash photography is not permitted during the service. Pictures may be taken in the church or outdoor chapel prior to the service. Stationary video cameras may be used with clergy approval. Professional photographers need to clear photography procedures with the clergy prior to the service. Photographs may be taken at the altar for a period of 30 minutes after the service.

Receiving Line and Guest Book

We respectfully request that you plan to hold your receiving line at the reception and make the guest book available at that time.

Confetti, Rice, Bird Seed, Flowers and Petals

We do not allow confetti, rice, bird seed, flowers or petals to be thrown on the church grounds or in the church.

Reception

The Pittenger Center is available for use for your reception. Please contact our Building Manager, Debbie Flerx, in the church office for availability, costs and rules of use.

The Marriage License

A marriage license is valid for sixty days from the date of issue. Please secure one well in advance of the wedding date and bring it to the office two weeks before your wedding.