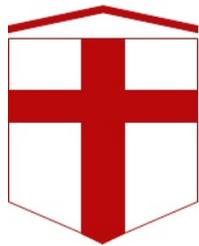


Wedding Customary and Planning Guide  
for  
The Celebration  
&  
Blessing of a Christian Marriage  
at



**ST. GEORGE'S**  
Episcopal Church  
Dayton, Ohio



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Stained glass window of St. George  
in the entry hall of the church

# Planning Your Wedding

## A Word from the Rector

A Christian wedding is a joyous event for all, and I congratulate you on this momentous event in your lives. I am pleased and honored to have you celebrate your wedding at St. George's and will make every effort to assist you in the planning of the ceremony so that it will be filled with all the beauty, dignity, and reverence that a Christian wedding should have.

Please take the time to look over this booklet carefully and comply with its instructions and suggestions. It will serve as both an introduction to weddings here at St. George's and also be a helpful resource for you throughout the wedding planning process. Any items it does not answer can be discussed when you meet with the officiating minister in your pre-marriage counseling sessions. Please know that the guidelines presented flow from years of experience preparing wedding ceremonies that are honoring to God, beneficial to the couple, and inspiring to your family and guests.

Much time, planning, and preparation will go into your wedding, but a wedding is just the beginning of a marriage that will last a lifetime. In a Christian marriage husband and wife are joined together in a covenant relationship that is blessed by God. By seeking God's blessing, through the ministry of the Church, you are recognizing that your wedding and your marriage are to embody the Christian understanding of the union of husband and wife in matrimony. The opening statements of the ceremony, found in our Book of Common Prayer (p. 423) say it best: "The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation...it signifies the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, ... the union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for help and comfort given to 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...Therefore 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."

I am delighted to share in this wonderful and holy event in your lives, and may the Lord bless you as you begin a new life together.

Yours in Christ,

*Ben*

The Reverend Benjamin T.S. Phillips  
Rector

## General Information

1. The Canons of The Episcopal Church specify that,
  - a. Holy Matrimony is “entered into within the community of faith.” The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage at St. George’s is intended for those who are members of the parish, their children or grandchildren, or members of other Episcopal Churches who for some reason require a different location, or those exploring membership at St. George’s. Special consideration and approval by the Rector must be given for couples seeking marriage who do not meet the above criteria.
  - b. At least one of the couple must be a baptized Christian (note, they do not have to be baptized in the Episcopal Church), and it is preferred that both be baptized. Those who have not been baptized should discuss this with the Rector.
  - c. The marriage must be attested by at least two witnesses of legal age (18 years old) and of sound mind (often these are the Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor).
  - d. The marriage conforms to the laws of the State of Ohio, and the regulations of Montgomery County, including the acquisition of a valid marriage license through the appropriate county (see item #4 below). In Ohio the license is applied for in the county in which you, the couple, legally reside. So if you do not live in Montgomery County, Ohio, you will need to research and find out how to get a license in your own county.
  - e. Notice of intent to marry be made at least 30 days prior to the proposed marriage date – this is fulfilled by signing a Declaration of Intent form, obtained when the couple has their initial meeting with the Rector or officiating minister.
  - f. Clergy provide premarital counseling to engaged couples prior to the wedding; see page 8 for more information.
2. The Rector or other clergy of the parish assigned by the Rector will be the officiating minister of the wedding. Other clergy, either of the Episcopal Church or other denominations who have a special relationship with the bride and/or groom, may be invited to assist in the service. Approval by the Rector is required.
3. The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, found in the Book of Common Prayer (page 423) is the service used in the Episcopal Church and at St. George’s for the ceremony. Liturgies personally composed or other services may not be used.
4. A valid marriage license must be obtained in order for the wedding to proceed. A marriage license is obtained by the couple (not the minister) through the Montgomery County Marriage License Bureau of the County Probate Court, and is valid for 60 days from date of issuance. The license, once obtained by the couple, needs to be submitted to the officiating minister at or before the rehearsal. Once the marriage is completed, the minister then fills out and signs the certificate of verification, and mails it back to the county on behalf of the couple. The county then processes the license and mails the official Marriage Certificate to the couple. For more information go to the Montgomery County website:

[https://www.mcoho.org/government/courts/common\\_pleas\\_court\\_-\\_probate\\_division/marriage\\_license.php](https://www.mcoho.org/government/courts/common_pleas_court_-_probate_division/marriage_license.php)

5. In compliance with state law, the clergy of St. George's are approved and licensed by the Secretary of the State of Ohio to perform and solemnize marriages, and possess the appropriate documentation to verify this, as provided by the State.
6. In the United States almost any couple of age may present themselves to a legal state authority to have their union sanctioned by the government. While the clergy of our church are licensed by the state to perform this function, the church holds that this is of secondary importance to the blessing of God upon their union, which is what a wedding ceremony in the Church is all about. Thus there is a distinction between the blessing of the marriage at the church and the rest of the events traditionally surrounding the wedding. It is important to keep this distinction in mind as we proceed.
7. In the case where one or both parties have been divorced and the former spouse is still living, special permission must be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, per Canon 1.19, in addition to obtaining the marriage license. See page 16 for "Guidelines for solemnizing a second marriage". All materials pertinent to the request to the Bishop must be sent, per diocesan guidelines, at least sixty days before the proposed wedding date. Additional pre-marriage counseling time may be required.
8. In the case where one or both parties have been divorced two times and both former spouses are still living, the Bishop does not grant permission for remarriage except in highly unusual circumstances, and extra information and requirements may be requested at the Bishop's discretion.
9. If a couple has already been legally married by a civil authority, for example a judge or sea captain or other official of the state licensed to perform weddings, and would like to seek the Church's blessing of that marriage they may do so. Please note the following:
  - a. All requirements for an engaged (non-married) couple still apply, including pre-marriage counseling.
  - b. Instead of applying for a marriage license, a certified copy of the marriage certificate must be presented to the officiating minister at the time of the initial meeting.
  - c. If one or both of the parties of the civil union was previously married, then all requirements for applying for a request from the Bishop for the solemnization of a second marriage must also still be met.
  - d. The ceremony follows the liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer called, "The Blessing of a Civil Marriage" found on page 433.
  - e. All other planning guidelines for the liturgy, music selections, photographers, etc. also still apply.

# Scheduling Your Wedding

## Initial Meeting

The first step in scheduling your wedding is to set up an appointment with the Rector or one of the parish clergy. During this meeting the above guidelines are reviewed and the minister will receive basic information about the couple. It is recommended that this initial meeting be at least six months before the proposed wedding date to allow time for pre-marriage counseling and proper planning. Upon approval from the Rector the wedding date/time is then reserved. At this time pre-marriage counseling is also reviewed and scheduled.

Weddings will not be scheduled on any Sundays or during Holy Week (beginning with the Saturday before Palm Sunday), or during the week before Christmas. Weddings scheduled after Christmas during the Christmas season, will be held with full Christmas decorations in the Church remaining in place. It is requested that a wedding invitation be sent to the officiating minister and serves as a confirmation for the date and time you have reserved.

## Receptions

Receptions may be held at St. George's, either in the Parish Hall or the Undercroft, and require additional scheduling requests and fees (see Fee Schedule, page 6).

## Arrival Time

An arrival time for the day of the wedding will also need to be determined and scheduled so the church's Wedding Assistant will be able to unlock the church (see below, p. 12).

## Music

A meeting with the Director of Music will need to be scheduled (see below, p. 13) to review and approve all music selections and coordinate any additional musicians and/or singers.

## Wedding Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal is mandatory in all cases (no exceptions) and must also be scheduled when the wedding is put on the church's calendar. The rehearsal will be scheduled the day before the wedding, unless unusual circumstances require otherwise.

The couple and their two witnesses should plan on being at the rehearsal 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to sign all the appropriate paperwork. The couple should also bring their valid marriage license (see above, page 4) and appropriate checks for fees.

A typical rehearsal takes about an hour. All members of the wedding party, parents, as well as ushers, readers, and accompanying musicians/vocalists should plan on attending unless the officiating minister indicates their presence is not needed. Grandparents or other family who are to be seated as part of the ceremony are invited and welcome to attend but their presence is not required. If any of the above are not able to attend the rehearsal please notify the officiating minister ahead of time.

## Wedding Fees

Fees for various aspects of a wedding at St. George's are set in the Parish Fee Schedule and are as follows:

Church	\$500*
Organist	\$250
Organist –soloist/musician rehearse	\$25/rehearsal
Wedding Assistant	\$150
Aisle Tapers (candles)	\$100
Reception, Parish Hall (PH)	\$200
Reception, Undercroft (UC)	\$300
UC Kitchen cleanup (if needed)	\$100
Custodian (req'd for all receptions)	\$25/hr.

\*waived for Members of the Parish

The above Fee Schedule will be discussed with the officiating minister at the time of the initial meeting, and if need be in successive meetings. The check for use of the Church (\$500) is required to be submitted 30 days prior to the scheduled wedding date and is non-refundable.

A check covering all fees except for the organist and wedding assistant fees should be made out to "St. George's Church". Fees for the organist and wedding assistant should be separate checks each made out directly to the organist and wedding assistant. The names of whom to make the check out to will be provided during the couple's meeting with the clergy.

For helpful reference a Fee Form will be provided to serve as a receipt, or "invoice", for the couple's planning.

Clergy at St. George's do not charge a minister fee (sometimes called a "stole fee"), but if a couple or their family would like to provide an honorarium that is most welcome and encouraged.

## Marriage Preparation

Marriage is a beautiful thing, but it is also challenging. Any couple who has a healthy marriage that lasts for 30, 40, or more years will tell you, “It takes a lot of hard work to make a marriage work.” It is our goal at St. George’s not only to have a lovely wedding, but to help you lay a foundation for a lovely and strong marriage that will last.

Thus, all couples are required by canon law to receive appropriate pre-marriage counseling. Usually this is done by the officiating minister through St. George’s, although the minister may request (on a case-by-case basis) that additional counseling be done through a third party licensed marriage counselor. In such cases if the couple does not have a preferred counselor our staff clergy can recommend one and make a referral.

### Pre-marriage Counseling

- Consists of a minimum of 3 one-hour sessions between the couple and minister; more may be required depending on pastoral need, as determined by the minister.
- The purpose of these sessions are,
  1. For the minister and couple to get to know each other; having a degree of familiarity and comfort with each other is essential to a wholesome wedding.
  2. For the minister and couple to discuss and explore the concept of Christian marriage, the biblical basis for marriage, and how the couple’s faith in Jesus Christ is to be nourished and strengthened over the course of their marriage.
  3. Explore the dynamics of married life, seeking to find any areas in the couple’s relationship that may need attention or work, and celebrate areas of strength, in order to have as healthy and enjoyable marriage as possible.
  4. Discuss the wedding ceremony and make appropriate plans – such as music, deciding on Scripture passages, will there be Communion, etc.
- Sessions are scheduled directly with the minister, and usually are held at least a few weeks apart. There is no requirement on when and with what frequency the sessions are held, only that they be completed at least two weeks prior to the wedding date. Any additional (professional) counseling by a third party must also be completed at least two weeks prior to the wedding.
- In the event that a couple is geographically unable to meet with the minister after a reasonable fashion, they may receive their pre-marriage counseling by another minister closer to them, provided, 1) the counseling meet the above four criteria, and 2) the minister performing the counseling send a letter to the officiating clergy at St. George’s indicating completion of the counseling.

### Pre-Marriage Online Survey

The clergy of St. George’s use an online survey questionnaire, called a relationship inventory, as a starting point in the pre-marriage counseling, administered through a website called Prepare & Enrich. The cost of the survey is \$35, to be paid by the couple with credit card online when they log in to take the survey. After the initial meeting with

the minister is completed and a wedding date scheduled, the minister sets up an online profile for the couple. Each of the couple's email addresses will be required to set up the profile. Note that your email is not shared by Prepare & Enrich with any third party advertisers. The results of your inventory are confidential, they are automatically deleted from the site after one year, are only accessible by the registered minister who set up the profile, and only your first names are used to increase privacy.

Once the profile is set up by the minister, the web site sends a confirmation email to the couple which includes a link to the website survey portal with a login and password. The \$35 fee, mentioned above, is paid online at this time. Couples take the survey independently, not together – no 'answer sharing' please until surveys are completed! The surveys can be done all at once or saved, exited, and logged onto again for completion at a later time. Questions cover topics including family background, expectations, children, finances, leisure, household roles, and faith.

Once both parties have completed the survey, a report is compiled which contains and compares the couple's answers, which help serve as a springboard for discussion and reflection during the pre-marriage sessions. Please note: this is not a compatibility test; this is simply a survey/questionnaire to help the minister get a helpful glimpse into your relationship and find areas of both strength and weakness in the relationship, so as to better help you during your counseling. You may learn quite a bit in the process! A couple's version of the report (hard copy or electronic) is also available, upon request.

For more information on Prepare & Enrich, visit their website at:

[www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com)

## Weddings at St. George's

A wedding is certainly an event, a major event in the life of the bride and groom and their family and friends. It entails much planning and preparation and we at St. George's will do all we can to coordinate with you. A wedding is also a Christian worship service, wherein God's people gather around the couple and faithfully commend them to God, to one another, and to the Church to be blessed. The Word of God is read and expounded, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, if desired by the couple, is administered, and the exchanging of vows and rings occurs within the context of the worship of God. It is important to keep this aspect of the wedding in mind during the planning process.

### The Ceremony Liturgy

All weddings at St. George's are conducted using the service, or liturgy, called, "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage", found in the Book of Common Prayer, page 423. A printed copy of this full service may be requested from the church office, or you may request an electronic version via email, or you can go online to [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org) and navigate to the Pastoral Offices section and click on the Marriage service.

The ceremony is ancient, beautiful, and is highly recognizable since it is the template from which most other Christian weddings in the West derive. Please take time to look over the service, noting the following:

- The Declaration of Intent (page 424) is part of the legal requirement of the wedding, and different from the actual Marriage Vows, which come later in the service.
- There is no Unity Candle as part of the ceremony.
- The Marriage Vows are the vows that will be used, couples are not permitted to write their own vows as part of the ceremony. The vows in the Prayer Book are beautifully worded, rich, and comprehensive in the way they describe and define what a couple is committing to in a Christian marriage. Please note, you will not be required to memorize any portion of the service, the minister will walk you both through the vows and the exchanging of rings.
- Parts of the service to 'customize' are the music (see Music section below), Scripture readings, and decorations (see sections below, p. 13-15).
- At least one reading from the Bible will be required for the service, but certainly more may be read if the couple wishes. The couple is encouraged to use a passage that is particularly meaningful to them. If there is to be Holy Communion at the wedding one of the readings must be from one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). Here is also a list of suggested readings (found in the Prayer Book, p. 426) which focus on the themes of marriage and love:

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 (*from the Apocrypha*; 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 ever 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)

- Readings of a non-biblical (secular) nature, such as poems, song lyrics, literature, etc., are more appropriate for the reception or rehearsal dinner and are not permitted as part of the wedding worship service.
- The minister will always give a short sermon or homily as part of the ceremony.
- Holy Communion may be part of the ceremony, and if the couple wishes for it to be administered a few considerations are to be taken into account:
  - It will add approximately 20 to 30 minutes to the total time of the service, depending on the number of guests. The service without Communion is typically 30 to 40 minutes.
  - St. George's invites all baptized Christians to receive Holy Communion, even if they are baptized in another church or denomination. However, not all wedding guests will be baptized, or permitted to commune if their own church tradition does not allow it, or they may not be Christians. Consideration of these factors should be weighed.
  - The couple is not permitted to have Holy Communion for just themselves.
- St. George's does not provide a wedding bulletin/program but once decisions about the service are completed a template of the wedding service is provided for the couple to use in preparing and printing their program/bulletin. ***The officiating minister must approve the final draft of the bulletin before it is sent to be printed.***

### The Wedding Party and Participants

- Given the space limitation at the front of the sanctuary, a wedding party should have no more than 8 bridesmaids and 8 groomsmen (16 total).
- Flower girls and ring bearers should be at least 5 years of age and be able to follow a few instructions of guidance. Unless they are old enough to be able to stand for 30 to 40 minutes unsupervised, it is recommended that they sit with family after the entrance procession for the ceremony rather than stand with the bridesmaids and groomsmen.
- Flower girls may not drop flower petals, real or artificial, along the aisle.
- If a ring bearer carries the rings in, he must give the rings to the Best Man as soon as he reaches the front. This is necessary for later in the ceremony as well as ensuring that the rings do not get lost.
- All members of the wedding party should plan on being at the rehearsal. If there will be ushers who are not groomsmen, or in addition to groomsmen, they should plan on being at the rehearsal as well.
- Bridesmaids and Bride will have use of the Choir Room on the lower level for changing and preparation; the groomsmen will have use of the Parish Hall on the

upper level. Please be sure to clean up these areas after the wedding. St. George's, its employees and volunteers are not responsible for items lost or stolen.

- The couple is encouraged to have family and/or friends be readers (lectors) to read the passages of Scripture. Those selected should be comfortable getting up in front of a large crowd and be able to read in a loud, clear voice and not too fast. If the couple prefers, the officiating minister can read some or all of the readings. If there is to be Holy Communion, the officiating minister will read the Gospel lesson.
- Lectors (readers) should plan on being at the rehearsal to familiarize themselves with the passages, receive instructions from the minister, and practice reading the passages. Printed copies of the readings with the appropriate introductory phrases will be provided by the minister and placed in the lectern before the rehearsal and for the wedding, so the readers will not need to bring up their own copies.

### **Wedding Coordinators and Assistants**

St. George's requires the presence of our own "in house" Wedding Assistant, whose purpose is to assist the clergy and help things run smoothly at the rehearsal and the day of the wedding. They will unlock the church the day of the wedding (an arrival time will need to be scheduled, see above p.6), and help members of the wedding party find their way around the church. The Wedding Assistant will also help direct family members and the wedding party, particularly during the entrances for the ceremony.

The fee for the Wedding Assistant is \$150, is made payable directly to them, and is due at the rehearsal.

Please note, the church's Wedding Assistant is not a wedding coordinator, that is, they do not handle logistics like ordering flowers, coordinating with vendors, musicians, etc. Couples may hire their own independent wedding coordinators for these things. If such a coordinator is retained, the couple is responsible for ensuring that their coordinator is made aware of Church policies and requirements. Additional copies of this customary available by request.

### **Other Information**

- Childcare – St. George's does not provide childcare for weddings or rehearsals, and the nursery is not available. Young children are welcome to attend the ceremony, or parents will need to make their own arrangements for childcare. If young children at the ceremony get upset and fussy, parents are welcome to comfort them in the church's narthex (entry hall). There are benches there and the service is broadcast via speakers so they can still hear what is going on and see the ceremony through the glass partition.
- Parking – St. George's has an upper and lower lot. The upper lot is accessible via Manor Lane, which is the road between the church property and the Ferneding Insurance building next door. It is recommended that the wedding party use the upper lot. The lower lot is accessible directly from Far Hills Avenue (State Route 48).
- Handicap Accessible – Our church and facilities are fully handicap accessible.
- Alcohol – Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in any part of the church or its grounds.

## Wedding Music

Music is a key component to any wedding, and some of the most memorable music ever written was composed for weddings. Here is all the information you need to get started on planning the music for your wedding.

### Meeting with the Music Director

St. George's Director of Music, who is the church's Organist and Pianist, will play at your wedding, or if they are unable to be there for scheduling reasons will find an appropriate substitute. All decisions regarding the music of the service must be approved by the Director of Music and a meeting with them will need to be scheduled. Vocal soloists and instrumental accompaniments (violin, guitar, flute, piano, etc.) are permitted, subject to the Director of Music's approval. The parts of the ceremony for which music selections will need to be made are:

- Prelude
- Seating of the Family
- Entrance of Bridesmaids
- Bridal Procession
- Any music during the service, such as a hymn or solo
- Closing/Exit
- Postlude

### Music Suggestions for Wedding

Maybe you already have all your ideas for music in mind, but if you need a helpful place to start, below are some recommendations to get you going.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztMjJXzGpGk>

This is a link to a sampler video on YouTube with 30 second samples of 16 classical music pieces that are popular for weddings, especially prelude music. Below are recommendations, all of which appear on this video except "Jupiter" (by Holst) and Mozart's "Piano Concerto #21" which have separate links for them.

### **Recommendations**

For Prelude, Seating of the Family Music:

- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire (Bach)
- Air on G (Bach)
- Piano Concerto 21, 2<sup>nd</sup> movement (Mozart)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df-eLzao63I>

For Procession or Exit music:

- Hornpipe, from "Water Music" (Handel), either exit or entrance
- Canon (Pachelbel), great for entrance
- (list continues on next page)*

Jupiter, from "The Planets" (Holst) either exit or entrance

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-ufDYlazWg> (the actual part to use in the wedding is the second movement, which in the video starts at 2:54, ignore the first few minutes)

Prince of Denmark March, aka Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke), great for entrance or exit

Wedding March, from "Midsummer Night's Dream" (Mendelssohn), great for exit

Note: "The Bridal Chorus" (by Wagner), commonly called "Here Comes the Bride", is not a permissible piece of music for the ceremony.

Music of a non-Christian (secular) nature is typically not permitted as part of the worship service.

### **Suggested Hymns**

Because a wedding is also a worship service, it is appropriate (and even encouraged, but not required) to have the congregation sing a hymn. Here are some suggestions for hymns that fit well with a wedding ceremony, although a favorite of the couple's is also welcome:

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#686)

Be Thou My Vision (#488)

How Firm A Foundation (#636)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee (#376)

All creatures of our God and King (#400)

How lovely is thy dwelling place (#517)

Love divine, all loves excelling (#657)

Take my life and let it be (#707)

On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand (LEVAS2, #99)

### **Organist Fee**

The organist fee is \$250, to be made out directly to the organist and delivered at or before the rehearsal. If there are to be additional musicians or vocalists the Director of Music may need to schedule separate rehearsals with them to be adequately prepared for the ceremony. In such circumstances an additional \$25 fee per rehearsal is to be added to the base \$250 fee. These fees are just for the organist and do not include the cost or fees that may be charged by the additional musicians or vocalists themselves.

The church bell may be tolled to celebrate the couple's wedding, such a request must be made and arranged with the Music Director at their meeting and approved by the Rector. Time of day shall be the determining factor in granting permission.

## Decorations & Photography

### Decorations

Couples are often keen to decorate and personalize the sanctuary space for their wedding. All decorations must be removed the same day as the wedding. Decorations may be put up the day before the wedding provided prior arrangements are made through the clergy, otherwise decorations shall be put up the day of the wedding.

Please note the following guidelines:

### Flowers

- Couples are welcome to use a florist of their own choosing, recognizing that arrangements will need to be made with the church office (937-434-1781) to schedule the delivery of flowers at a time when the church open. St. George's is contracted with Furst Florist for flowers for our regular Sunday worship services, so if the couple uses them for their wedding flowers then arranging the delivery is easier and does not need to be scheduled at a time when the church is open.
- The couple/wedding party is responsible for seeing that all flowers and decorations are removed following the ceremony. The couple has the option to leave (donate) some or all of the flowers to be left up for use in the church's next worship service.
- Flowers may be placed on the retable (behind the Altar, or Lord's Table) or on the chancel landings provided they have their own waterproof vase.
- Flowers may also be hung on the pews provided that no adhesives (like command hook strips or double sided tape) are used, and any clips or hooks should be plastic, not metal, to avoid damaging the wood and finish of the pews. Any damage to the pews may result in a charge to the couple.
- Flowers on stands may also be placed in the entry hall (narthex) of the church.
- Flower petals, either real or artificial, may not be used in the aisle or on the church grounds.

### Candles

- The existing candles and torches in the church's chancel (altar area) may be lit for the ceremony, upon request.
- If Holy Communion is to be celebrated as part of the ceremony the candles on the Lord's Table (altar) will be lit.
- St. George's makes available our in-house pew candles (aisle tapers) at the couple's request. These are brass candles with glass cylinder globes that are mounted on the center aisle pews (about every third pew) and stand about three feet above the pew. There is a \$100 fee for this service, and in-house church staff will take care of the setup, lighting, and takedown of these candles. These are especially beautiful for evening weddings.
- No other additional candles may be used or set up by the couple.

### Other Decorations

- Due to the length of the sanctuary's aisle and the risk of tripping, aisle runners may not be used.
- Garlands, additional lighting, and other decorations must be approved by the clergy.
- If a wedding takes place after Christmas and before January 6<sup>th</sup> it will have all the church Christmas decorations up.
- If there is to be a send-off from the church (to a car, bus, van, or limo) after the ceremony, rice or confetti may not be used. We recommend bubbles for your guests – they are fun and no clean up is required!

### Photography & Videography

Our goal is to be respectful of your desire to document your wedding with beautiful pictures and still maintain a sense of reverence for the worship service. A key idea is that we like to encourage couples to be 'in the moment' the day of their wedding, and find that excessive amounts of photographs during the ceremony can be a distraction to the couple and wedding guests. We want you to really enjoy the moment and have cherished memories, as well as great photos.

If you have hired a photographer and/or videographer to be at your wedding, it is the couple's responsibility to ensure that photographers and videographers are aware of the church's policies. They are encouraged, but not required, to attend the rehearsal and meet with the minister in case they have any questions regarding policies and to familiarize themselves with the sanctuary space for setup.

### Photographs

- Due to the sacred nature of the ceremony, flash photography is not permitted once the wedding has begun. A helpful reminder of this is to be printed in the service bulletin. We ask that this be respected by both guests and your photographer.
- Photographs of the couple, family, and wedding party may be taken in the church before and after the wedding. If you would like to take pictures outside on the church grounds prior permission must be given, and photographs may not be taken on the lawn of the house next door to the church (the Rectory).
- Once the ceremony has begun photographers may take pictures from the balcony without flash, but are to refrain from taking pictures from the floor of the sanctuary.

### Videography

- Video footage of the ceremony is certainly welcome.
- If a camera is to be set up in the chancel to be facing the couple it is required to be un-manned (i.e. no operator may remain in the chancel).
- Cameras with operators may be set up in the balcony and along the side aisles.
- No cameras, manned or un-manned, are permitted to be in the center aisle.
- If the couple is to be outfitted with microphones, we ask that they be unobtrusive.

## Guidelines for Solemnizing a Second Marriage

*[The following is taken from the Diocese of Southern Ohio's published guidelines]*

Under our Canons, no Member of the Clergy may solemnize the marriage "of any person who has been the husband or wife of any other person then living" except with "the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the Member of the Clergy is canonically resident." In fulfillment of this canonical requirement, the following provisions and procedures apply to all re-marriages within the Diocese of Southern Ohio:

- A period of one year shall have elapsed following the final decree of divorce or dissolution.
- The written request should be received at least sixty days prior to the wedding. It is not necessary to specify a scheduled date in the request. Once the wedding (if permitted) has taken place, it will be the officiant's responsibility to inform the bishop in writing of the date and place of the wedding.

The request should offer a thorough response to the following:

- State the relationship of the parties to the Church (at least one of the parties should be a baptized member of the Episcopal Church) and the community of faith.
- Describe the circumstances and reasons for the breakdown of the previous marriage for each individual as well as the priest's pastoral assessment of the proposed marriage.
- Provide information regarding the "continuing concern" called for in Canon 1.19 for "the well-being of the former spouse, and of any children of the prior marriage."
- Include copies of all final decrees.
- Include a copy of the signed Declaration of Intention.

All the provisions of Canon 1.18 shall apply, including the required signing of the Declaration of Intention. Please note that the Bishop does not grant consent for third marriages except in highly unusual circumstances. In the case of a third marriage request, additional information may be required from the couple. Canon 1.19 applies only to former spouses still living.

All marriages solemnized under Title I, Canon 19, Section 3 must be reported to the Bishop following the marriage liturgy.