



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Congratulations on your decision to join in Holy Matrimony. A wedding at St. Andrew's is a worship service in which we ask God's blessing on a couple as they begin their new life together in Christian marriage within the context of a church community. Because the decision to marry is such an important one, we at St. Andrew's are very serious about our priestly and canonical responsibilities for presiding at a marriage. Accordingly, each couple must meet the basic requirements established by the Canons (rules) of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of San Diego, and the practices of this parish. These guidelines are meant to help you plan for and design a beautiful beginning to your marriage. Below are some of the highlights. We can talk more when we meet in-person.

In Christ's Joy,

Mother Brenda⁺

The Rev. Brenda J. Sol, Rector

Requirements for Marriage

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a couple, and in the Episcopal Church, it is required that:

- At least one member of the couple is a baptized Christian.
 - The ceremony is attested to by at least two witnesses.
 - You must meet with the priest to discuss your intention to wed at least 30 days prior to the date you wish to marry.
 - A minimum of three sessions of **Pre-Marital Counseling** is required. At these sessions, the priest will meet with the couple to guide them as they explore their relationship and their expectations for each other and their marriage. A discussion of Christian marriage will be included.
 - The couple will sign a **Declaration of Intent** to enter, with God's help, into a Christian marriage and to establish a Christian home.
 - The marriage must conform to the laws of the State of California and the Canons of the Episcopal Church.
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Marriage License

The State requires a wedding license; information can be found here:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Marriage-License-](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Marriage-License-Information.aspx)

[Information.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/Pages/Marriage-License-Information.aspx). **The marriage license and church fees should be presented to the church office no later than 10 days prior to the wedding date.**

Divorce

The Church's attitude about divorce is pastoral in nature. We are concerned only that previous misjudgments do not happen again. If you have been divorced, a court certified copy of your final divorce decree must be in the hands of the priest more than 45 days before the wedding, as the officiating priest is required to receive permission from the diocesan Bishop at least 30 days prior to the ceremony. **A date for the proposed marriage should not be set until the Bishop has granted permission.**

Clergy

Any clergy on staff at St. Andrew's may officiate at your wedding. Other Episcopal clergy, with the approval of the Rector, may officiate or may assist. Clergy of other denominations may participate, with the approval of the Rector.

Facilities

Because the Sacrament of Marriage is a liturgy of worship of the church, and the consecrated building represents the household of God gathered before the altar of God in worship, it is preferable that all marriages are held either in the main Church or the Shirley Teal Memorial Chapel. The Church will accommodate 370 guests, and the Chapel will accommodate 60. There is an audio system for the hearing impaired, and the church is handicap accessible.

Onsite Wedding Fee

*Members: \$500 Non-members: \$1,000

There is no charge for the use of the liturgical space, however, the fee includes service leaflets, premarital counseling sessions, liturgical supplies (candles, communion set-up, etc.), and cleaning costs. An additional fee for the organist is \$300, or \$350 if using a soloist. Use of the reception space is additional.

Offsite Wedding Fee

Whether a member or not, a minimum honorarium of \$600 will be due to the officiating clergy to cover preparation, rehearsal and wedding times. If travel of more than 50 miles roundtrip is required, transportation costs will be additional.

Premarital Counseling Fee

If you are being married offsite either by our clergy or another Episcopal priest, there is no charge for *members; the charge for non-member couples is \$300.

**In the Episcopal Church, members are defined as those who are regularly participating in worship and contributing financially.*



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Declaration of Intention

We 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

Signature

Dated: _____