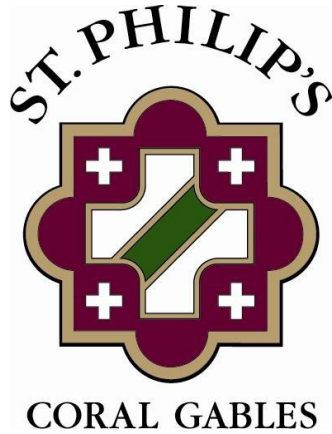




WEDDINGS

AT

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

AN INTRODUCTION

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a couple in the presence of God. The celebration and blessing of a wedding is a sacramental action of the Church, as well as an event for a couple and their family and friends. It is our desire at St. Philip's to assist individuals as they plan for their wedding so that the preparation time can be a period of growth in the understanding of Christian Marriage.

Marriage is one of the most significant events in a person's life. In order to assist couples and their families to begin planning with an understanding of the regulations and traditions of the Church for a wedding of beauty and dignity, the following guidelines are provided.

The worship of God is at the heart and understanding of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage at St. Philip's Church. We look forward to working with you as you plan this special day and your married life together.

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

1. The Rector is informed of the interest to be married at St. Philip's and an application is provided to you.
2. The Application is completed and returned to the Office for approval by the Rector.
3. An initial interview must be held with the Rector, and the above requirements must be met, before the date and time of the proposed wedding ceremony may be officially set.
4. The wedding date and time is set and a non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required.
5. The Altar Guild, Choirmaster/Organist, Parish Secretary and Wedding Coordinator are informed of your wedding.
6. At least 3 counseling sessions with the Rector are required for all couples. Additional sessions may be needed if either party need divorced.
7. A meeting with the Choirmaster/Organist is scheduled and held to discuss the music for the Ceremony.
8. The Planning Form is completed with the Rector. One week prior to the wedding date, the balance of the fees must be received.
9. A Rehearsal is held usually the night prior to the wedding date. Time is to be determined with the couple and the clergy and takes into account other events on our busy campus.
10. The Wedding Ceremony is celebrated.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Under the canons of the Episcopal Church, applications for marriage must be made to the Rector at least three (3) months in advance. This ensures adequate time for the premarital counseling required by the Church and the many other details that could arise.

"No minister of this church shall solemnize any marriage unless he shall have ascertained that both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of two persons, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will; and with intent that it be lifelong." – *Title I, Canon 17, Sec. 2(b)*

2. At least one of the couple should be a Baptized Christian.

3. Those intending to have their wedding at St Philip's must attend three (3) premarital counseling sessions with the Clergy. (See pre-marital counseling)

4. Prior marriages and divorces must be disclosed to the Clergy as soon as possible for further consultation with the Bishop. Please understand that St. Philip's requires no less than four (4) months prior to the wedding to complete this consultation process with the Bishop and our Clergy.

5. We greatly appreciate if no announcement of a wedding at St. Philip's is made until the couple has had an interview with the Rector.

6. Christian marriage is a request for God's blessing upon a covenant freely undertaken by a couple for their lifetime. The service for the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, which often involves the Eucharist as well, is a sacrament of the Church. There are some permissible modifications that may be made to the ceremony, but it should be kept in mind that the form of the service itself is prescribed by the Church (see *Book of Common Prayer*, pages 422-432; 437-438) and neither the priest nor the couple is free to alter the service beyond the permissible options.

7. It is the prerogative of the resident clergy of St. Philip's to officiate at all weddings. Clergy from other Episcopal churches or other denominations may, with the approval of the Rector, be invited to assist in the service, but are not allowed to officiate.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The Canon Law of the Episcopal Church sets forth certain requirements which must be met before a priest of this church can agree to officiate at a marriage. We also know that because marriage is one of the most significant events in a person's life, it is important that certain personal and marital issues be discussed and prepared for before the couple enters into married life. Therefore, we at St. Philip's not only emphasize the spiritual nature of marriage, we attempt to help the relational aspects as well.

First Session. The initial meeting with the Clergy is a general meeting to get acquainted, learn about the marriage requirements and gain a deeper understanding of marriage.

Second Session. At the second meeting, you can expect to discuss the practical aspects of married life (i.e. financial) and the importance of maintaining a balance between work, marriage and personal life.

Third Session. At the third meeting, the Clergy will review the details of the Wedding Ceremony and finalize the (Planning Form). If necessary, additional sessions with the Clergy may be scheduled at this time.

Please be aware that appointments with the Clergy should be scheduled during normal business hours, Tuesday through Friday, though there may be some flexibility.

TIMES FOR REHEARSAL AND WEDDING

All services at St. Philip's begin on time. Therefore, it is expected that the rehearsal and wedding begin promptly.

Rehearsals generally begin at 5:30 P.M. on the day before the wedding, though accommodation may be made in advance for a different time/day.

Weddings are to be arranged at such times that do not conflict with regularly scheduled services. Weddings should not be scheduled before 1:00 PM on Sundays.

FLOWERS AND ACCESSORIES

1. Flowers are appropriate symbols of joy and life. Flower arrangements and other decorations must be consulted with the Wedding Coordinator.
2. Flowers placed in the church for a wedding are considered to be an offering to God; afterwards they are used for the Sunday service or taken to shut-ins. If the Church is otherwise decorated for a special event or season, such decorations and flowers may not be removed.
3. Only the candles normally used at the services in the church are to be used. A “unity” candle is not used in our tradition.
4. Reserved pews may be marked only by ribbons or modest floral arrangements. These markers should be removed immediately following the service.
5. Aisle runners are a safety hazard and may not be used. The dropping of flower petals in the center aisle is not permitted.
6. Rice or bird seed may not be thrown on the Church grounds.

DRESSING ROOMS

1. Rooms may be made available for the members of the wedding party to dress. An additional fee may be charged for this convenience. Please consult with the Clergy.

PHOTOGRAPHER

1. No flash pictures may be made during the service, by either a professional photographer or members of the congregation.
2. The professional photographer may have 1 hour following the service for posed pictures.
3. The officiating Clergy will be available for 15 minutes after the Ceremony for natural-light photographs of the service.
4. A video camera may be used to record the service, provided that it is on a stationary stand in an unobtrusive location approved by the officiating Clergy.

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING

A consultation with the Choirmaster/Organist should be arranged as early as possible in the planning stages of the wedding. He will discuss various music options with you (some of which are provided herein for your review and consideration) and advise you accordingly. The following points are to be observed:

The wedding or the Nuptial Eucharist is a sacred service. Music texts having a secular connotation may not be used.

Any texts that are sung must, under the Canons and Rubrics, be from Holy Scripture, the Book of Common Prayer, or other authorized services, from the Hymnals of the Episcopal Church, or is theologically consistent with them.

The final decision on the appropriateness of music and soloists must reside with the Rector in consultation with the Choirmaster/Organist.

Should a guest organist be desired, it must be with the approval and under the supervision of the Choirmaster/Organist. In such case, the Choirmaster/Organist functions as a consultant.

Soloists are expected to contact the Choirmaster/Organist at least four weeks prior to the service and make necessary arrangements for rehearsals.

REHEARSAL

The purpose of the rehearsal is to prepare the wedding party to participate in the service in a meaningful way. In deference to the nature of the service and to the many people who must be on hand for a rehearsal, members of the wedding party are expected to be present and on time.

The rehearsal is under the sole direction of the officiating clergy. The rehearsal time should take no more than 1 hour. Rehearsals are expected to start promptly.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The marriage license issued in the State of Florida must be delivered to the Church office the Monday prior to the wedding and given to the Church Administrative Assistant.

WEDDING FEES

The fees for weddings at St. Philip's Episcopal Church are:

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Members*	\$2,000.00
St. Philip's Episcopal Church Non-members	\$5,000.00
Clergy	Discretionary

The Church Fee listed above includes marriage counseling services, the rehearsal and wedding ceremony, consultations with the Director of Music, the organist's service, the Sexton's services of the set up and clean up for the rehearsal and ceremony and the Wedding Coordinator, who assists the bride and groom in their planning and facilitates the rehearsal and wedding.

Checks should be mailed or delivered to the Church Office, to the attention of the Parish Bookkeeper, one week prior to the wedding.

** a member is defined as someone who has made St. Philip's their church home, attends worship regularly and has fulfilled a financial pledge for at least one year prior to the time of application.*

WEDDING SERVICE BULLETINS

The wedding service bulletin provided for guests and family members is the responsibility of the bride and groom. The format and content must be approved by the Rector prior to printing and distribution. Examples of previous wedding bulletins are available upon request.