



ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Wedding Guidelines

To the Couple,

First of all, best wishes on your engagement! We at St. Peter's are delighted that you are seeking God's blessing on your marriage.

Below are the details of the customary or guidelines for being married at St. Peter's. St. Peter's is a very busy church and wedding parties are our guests. We know what works smoothly here for everyone involved, and how to make your wedding day holy, gracious and beautiful. Amidst these guidelines, there is room for creativity. We welcome conversations about what that might include.

A marriage is, at the least, a legal occasion, in that all marriages must conform to the laws of the state in which they are performed. It may also be a social occasion when family and friends gather together, and, borrowing from a rich array of customs and traditions, join in celebrating the union of two people.

If one or both of the persons being married is a committed Christian, a third dimension is added to the legal and social aspects. By choosing to be married inside the church the couple is making a "faith statement" to all their family and friends which in effect says,

"We are two people who desire to make a marriage covenant before God and in the presence of God's people. In a service of worship we want to stand before God's altar and commit ourselves to each other for the rest of our lives. We intend to live our married life in the community of the faithful (the Church). We are inviting the life and love of Jesus Christ to be at the center of our marriage. In order to make an appropriate beginning, we have come to this place to ask a priest in the name of God to bless our commitment and to ask the congregation to pray for us."

A Christian wedding is far more than a legal or social event; it is above all a service of worship. Indeed, it is a sacramental rite called the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in the Book of Common Prayer—an event whereby the grace and love of God is given and made known through the words and actions of the people.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions that may arise when you have read this customary. We look forward to working with you as you plan for this very important day, as you begin the journey that will be your marriage.

Wishing you joy and God's peace,
The Clergy of St. Peter's

The Customary

Overview of Weddings at St. Peter's

St. Peter's is a small historic redwood church located in the center of the city of Del Mar, California. The central nave comfortably holds about 110 persons. The transepts provide about 90 additional seats.

Wedding ceremonies at St. Peter's are available to members of St. Peter's and their families and couples living in the area that are planning to join the St. Peter's family. We will consider providing wedding services to couples that are members of an Episcopal Church in another diocese or those who, though not Episcopalians, are active members of another Christian community. We are willing to work with couples embarking on an inter-faith marriage provided one of them is a baptized Christian. One member of any couple must be baptized. This is a rule that we are unable to bend.

All weddings at St. Peter's are under the direction of the rector, The Rev. Paige Blair, the members of her clergy staff and the church Wedding Guild. Any decisions about your wedding must be made in consultation with them. Except under extraordinary circumstances, no weddings will be performed during Lent, the period from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.

Scheduling:

Prior to scheduling a date for your wedding, please contact the Parish Office [858-755-1616] about the availability of church facilities and clergy for the date you have chosen. No wedding can be scheduled less than ninety days prior to the planned date for the ceremony. If either party has been previously married, an additional thirty days will be required. Because St. Peter's has a very busy campus, it is best to schedule your wedding between six months and one year in advance.

Reservations:

A down payment of at least 25% of the inclusive fee must be made before your reservation goes on the church calendar. Within a week of reserving the church please contact the wedding guild. The church office will provide contact information for the wedding guild.

Clergy:

You may ask any member of the St. Peter's clergy staff to perform your wedding. If you wish to use a member of the Episcopal clergy from another parish or diocese consult the St. Peter's rector [Mother Paige Blair 858 755 1616 x 101]. Canon Law requires that Episcopal clergy from other diocese must secure permission from the Bishop of San Diego in order to perform weddings at St. Peter's. Clergy from other denominations are allowed to perform weddings at St. Peter's, but only with the consent of the St. Peter's rector.

Marriage Preparation:

Marriage Preparation is required by Canon Law for all couples being married at St. Peter's. It usually involves three sessions with a Marriage and Family therapist with whom St. Peter's has an agreement, as well as two sessions with the clergy to discern the spirituality of marriage and to plan the ceremony. Arrangements for counseling sessions should be made at the same time the wedding is scheduled. If the couple reside a significant distance from Del Mar, they may secure premarital counseling using local clergy or a licensed marriage counselor

in their own community. Arrangements such as these must be approved by the St. Peter's rector. Finally, the parties also must each sign a "Declaration of Intention to Enter into a Christian Marriage" (please refer to page 8).

Remarriage Requirements:

In the case of remarriage within the Episcopal Church, Canon Law requires the permission of the local Diocesan Bishop. After the priest who will be performing the marriage has had sufficient time to get to know the couple, the priest is the only person who is permitted to make this application to the Bishop. In addition, the Bishop requires no less than thirty days to render his approval. Generally, the appropriate time period for remarriage is one year from the date of filing for petition of divorce or six months after the date of the final divorce or annulment decree. A copy of any and all final decrees for either party must be given to the clergy prior to the beginning of premarital counseling.

The Wedding Rehearsal:

A rehearsal gives all involved the opportunity to practice, which will allow the wedding service to be carried out without undue stage fright and confusion. In most circumstances, the rehearsal is conducted at 5:00 p.m. on the evening before the wedding. Please connect with the Wedding Coordinator or clergy if you would like to negotiate a different time.

The rehearsal will take no more than an hour. Persons needed for the rehearsal are the couple, attendants, ushers, readers, father of the bride (or whomever will walk her down the aisle), mothers of both the bride and the groom. The clergy person is in charge of the rehearsal as he or she is responsible for conducting the service itself.

It is important that all participants be present and ready for the rehearsal five minutes before the scheduled starting time. The rehearsal starts promptly at 5:00 p.m. and always ends no later than 6:00 p.m. This is why it is so important to be on time - or early - for this event.

The Ceremony:

Your wedding will take place in the church unless otherwise arranged with the officiating clergy. The order for the wedding service will be "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage" from the Book of Common Prayer. The wedding service normally lasts thirty minutes. All participants should be at the church at least one hour or more prior to the ceremony and should allow a half an hour after the ceremony for final photos. If a wedding is held on Saturday afternoon, the service must start no later than 3:00 pm and the church must be available by 4:30 to prepare for the regular 5:00 pm Eucharist. A wedding may also be scheduled for Saturday evening, no earlier than 6:30 p.m. St. Peter's provides ample space for both the bride's and groom's parties to dress. A wedding rehearsal is required and is normally scheduled for one hour on the evening prior to the wedding.

The Wedding Party:

The wedding party usually consists of the couple and two or more attendants. The State of California requires two witnesses over the age of majority (18 years of age) to witness the marriage. You may have more attendants if you choose with three or four being optimal, but never more than ten each. We welcome children as ring bearers and flower bearers, provided they can perform the duties required of them. All members of the wedding party, including parents, ushers, readers and any other participants must be present for the wedding rehearsal.

Pursuant to Canon and Statutory Law in the State of California, at no time, on the day of the ceremony, and prior to the wedding, will the couple being married or their designated witnesses consume alcoholic beverages.

Documents and Service Information:

The marriage license, the scriptural readings you have chosen, any special instructions, and final payment of all fees must be brought to the parish office **at least ten days** prior to the wedding. We suggest that you make an appointment with your clergy to handle these final details. Remember: **if we do not have the marriage license and final fees at least two days prior to the service, the wedding will not occur.**

Traffic and Parking:

Please alert friends and family coming to the rehearsal and the wedding of the traffic congestion and parking problems in Del Mar. We are a busy beach community, especially during the San Diego Fair and the Del Mar Racing season, and guests need to allow extra time for parking. The Plaza parking garage directly across the street is always available, however it is fee based parking. The church technically owns about sixty parking spaces, but does not have the staff to police them on a wedding day. You may wish to hire a valet service.

Fees:

The fee for church members is \$1500, inclusive (please see definition of “members” on p. 6); the fee for guests of St. Peter’s (non-members) is \$3000, inclusive.

1. Items provided under the inclusive fee:

- a. Premarital Counseling services (including compensation for the Marriage and Family therapist.)
- b. The use of the church for both rehearsal and ceremony.
- c. The services of officiating clergy.
- d. The services of the sexton, who prepares the church for the wedding. (There will be an extra charge for the sexton if the Parish Hall is rented for a reception after the ceremony.)
- e. The services of the St. Peter's Wedding Guild. The Wedding Guild will assist you in planning your wedding, be present at the rehearsal and ceremony, and help you with anything you might require.
- f. The services of the St. Peter's Altar Guild. The Altar Guild will provide lavish floral arrangements for the altar and the entrance table. These flowers, which will be used for the Sunday services, must remain in the church after the wedding. If you plan to have a Eucharist, the Altar Guild will provide and prepare the necessary elements. Be sure to let the Wedding Guild know approximately how many will be receiving communion.
- g. The services of the church organist, Tasha Koontz. (858-755-1616)
- h. Special candles at the ends of each alternate pew in the nave.

2. Items not included in the inclusive fee:

- a. Personal flowers for the wedding party, pew-end decorations, or decorations outside of the church.

Your personal florist should arrange to deliver these additional flowers to the church after 11:00 am on the day of the wedding. All floral decorations must be completed at least one hour prior to the beginning of the wedding. No flowers beyond those listed above may be used to decorate the interior of the church.

- b. Streaming the service. Please ask your clergy about connecting with our online worship team.
- c. Soloists' fees or other special music beyond what is provided above. Tasha Koontz can advise you about additional music and help you find musicians. She must approve outside organists or other musicians.
- d. Parking fees or charges for a valet service.
- e. Photography. Please make your own arrangements for photography. There are special instructions for your photographers so please let us know the names and the time we can expect them on the day of the wedding.
- f. Bulletin or program.

Other regulations:

1. All special music and music selections must be approved by the officiating clergy. Only "live" melody is used at services at St. Peter's. The wedding marches from Wagner's "Lohengrin" and Mendelsohn's "A Mid Summers Night's Dream" are not used at St. Peter's.
2. White aisle runners are not allowed for safety reasons.
3. Nothing, especially flower petals, real or artificial, can be scattered along the central aisle.
4. The throwing of rice or birdseed on our campus is strictly forbidden. Rice injures our avian community, and birdseed on our concrete patio is very slippery and creates a hazard.

Weddings “outside” the church, i.e., on the beach, in a park, or other facility

Some of St. Peter’s Clergy are willing to officiate at weddings that take place in alternative locations. In these situations, the rules regarding the service itself, participants not drinking alcohol before the service on the day of the wedding, and preparation all apply. The fees associated with engaging the clergy in preparation and officiating are \$700 minimum, though in cases of weddings of a higher budget, say, greater than \$7000, a higher contribution may be appropriate.

Receptions at St. Peter's

The Parish Hall is available for wedding receptions as the calendar permits. For full receptions (contrasted with a simple cake and champagne affair), we require that the caterer be a licensed service provider. (Our experience is that DIY, “Do It Yourself,” receptions are often tremendously stressful for the wedding party and family, can result in issues which the staff at St. Peter’s are not equipped to solve, and also that non-licensed caterers do not know the procedures required to maintain our kitchen’s “A” rating.).

Holding your reception at St. Peter’s can be arranged through a separate “use agreement” with the parish. The use of the Parish Hall and charge for the services of the church sexton, who will be on duty during the reception, and A/V specialist if you would like to use our audio/visual system, are not included in the inclusive wedding service fee (see fees above).

Of note, Champagne, beer, wine or wine punches are permitted. If alcoholic beverages are served, alternative beverages must be supplied, along with food.

Because St. Peter’s is located in a residential area, all receptions at the church must be over by 9:30 pm, and no amplified music is permitted due to the sound ordinances. In addition, on Saturdays the patio must be clear between 4:45 and 6 p.m. for the sake of our 5 p.m. service of Holy Eucharist.

The fee for hosting an extended, “full” reception at St. Peter’s is an additional \$700 for parishioners and \$1180 or non-parishioners, with both requiring a separate \$120 Cleaning and Contingency Deposit.

The fee for hosting a briefer champagne and cake reception, or appetizers while the bridal party is having their pictures taken is \$250 for parishioners and \$400 for non-parishioners, with a separate \$120 Cleaning and Contingency Deposit.

These fees cover the use of the Parish Hall and Kitchen, and Sexton and A/V support, and tables and chairs for up to 120. They do not include expenses related to food and drink, valet parking, decorations, dinnerware, or the like.

Definitions:

1. Clergy – Only ordained or licensed clergy of a recognized religious body may officiate at weddings at St. Peter’s. Non Episcopal clergy must use the Book of Common Prayer.
2. Member of St. Peter's – Members are those who have been regularly attending Sunday and other services at St. Peter's over the previous twelve months, have joined the congregation, pledged and fulfilled their pledge during the previous calendar year. Children of members are considered to be members and can be married at St. Peter's under member status even if they now live in another community.

Reserving the Date:

Now that you have read the above wedding guidelines, in order to reserve your wedding date at St. Peter’s, we require that you read the attached Declaration of Intention form, and prepare to sign it at your first meeting with the clergy, and that you complete and return the informational form attached, and your check for 25% of your total fees.

This will confirm that you meet the qualifications and intend to be married at St. Peter’s. If you have any questions before signing and agreeing to what you have just read, please call us and we will try to answer your questions.

By signing this document you indicate that you understand and agree to be held accountable to the guidelines of our wedding customary.

St. Peter’s cannot reserve a date for your wedding until we have your information sheet and check.



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Wedding Information Form

We have read the wedding customary for St. Peter's and agree to follow the policy as set forth.

Our requested wedding date is: _____

Our requested wedding time is: _____

Our requested location is _____ St. Peter's _____ other (specify).

Our wedding service will include a Holy Communion: _____ Yes _____ No.

The service will be performed by _____ St. Peter's clergy _____ other (specify).

Name and contact info of: Wedding Coordinator _____

Photographer _____

Videographer _____

Information about the Couple

Name:

Name:

Birth date:

Birth date:

Birthplace:

Birthplace:

Current Address:

Current Address:

Current phone:

Current phone:

Email address:

Email address:

Mother's full name (incl. Maiden name & Address)

Mother's full name (incl. Maiden name & Address)

Father's full name and Address (if different)

Father's full name and Address (if different)

- I have not been married before
- I have been divorced once
- I have been divorced more than once
- I am a widow

- I have not been married before
- I have been divorced once
- I have been divorced more than once
- I am a widow

Baptized: _____ Yes _____ No

Baptized: _____ Yes _____ No

Confirmed as Episcopalian: _____ Yes _____ No

Confirmed as Episcopalian: _____ Yes _____ No

Church where Communicant:

Church where Communicant:

Witness name:

Witness name:

Please read and be prepared to discuss and sign this Declaration at your first appointment with the clergy.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Declaration of Intention

We,

(full name)

and

(full name)

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

We believe that the union of two people, 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

-----Signature

Dated ----- A.D. -----