

Weddings at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn IL

FAQs from The Daughters of the King

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two people in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church.

-The Book of Common Prayer, page 422



General Information

The Canons (laws) of the Church require that the "Letter of Intent to be Married" must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the wedding. Past experience has shown that the minimum 30 days usually leaves insufficient time for planning and preparation. During this time, you will meet with the rector for counseling and to work through the details of the wedding. For this reason, we recommend a period of at least six months for planning and preparation.

If either party has been married before and divorced and the former spouse is still living, a petition for a second marriage must be made to the Bishop of Chicago. This decision depends largely upon the recommendation of the priest based on their consultation with the couple. Although planning for the wedding may proceed, the Bishop's approval is required before the wedding can take place. It is imperative that enough time be allocated for this process.

The wedding service customarily follows The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage as presented in the Book of Common Prayer.

Weddings should be scheduled at times that are agreed to by the Rector and that will not conflict with other events on the church calendar.

Premarital Counseling

All couples are expected to participate in premarital counseling according to the Canons of the Church. Most parishioners will receive premarital counseling from the Rector or another member of the clergy.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are usually scheduled the evening before the wedding and typically last one hour. Prompt arrival on the part of the wedding party is not only a common courtesy but will also ensure that the rehearsal is finished in a timely manner. ***Please bring your official marriage license, maps to the reception, guest book and pen, and bulletins if you are providing these, to the rehearsal.***

Marriage License

When the wedding takes place at St. Mark's you must have a license issued by DuPage County. The County Clerk's telephone number is (630) 682-7035. They are open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will accept a personal check. Because weddings cannot be performed without the marriage license in hand **please be sure to bring the license to the wedding rehearsal and give it to the officiant.**

Flowers and Decorations

We are a liturgical church and flowers and decorations will reflect the liturgical season. It is customary to leave the flowers used at the altar for the services on Sunday. They would be graciously accepted as a thank-offering of joy to be shared with the whole congregation. Please consult with the Wedding Coordinator regarding your arrangements before ordering your flowers. Pew flowers must be attached to the pews using ribbon or rubber bands or any other method which will not damage the pews. Arrangements must be made for their removal immediately following the service.

If you wish to use the church's altar flowers for your wedding, you can contact the church's florist who will work with you to coordinate colors and flowers in the altar arrangements with your flowers.

We do not recommend the use of an aisle runner, but you may use one if you so choose. They are difficult to arrange properly and can be quite slippery. Please note that the church does not own an aisle runner, nor does it encourage its use.

Safety of the wedding party and their guests are of utmost importance to us at St. Mark's. For this reason we do not allow the use of real rose petals during the procession.

The altar candles are lit for all services. Aisle candles may be used, but they must be rented from a florist. Aisle candles must be encased in chimneys, and arrangements must be made for their removal immediately following the service. Aisle candles must be attached to the pews; they *may not* be placed on the floor.

Music

If you intend to have organ music as part of your ceremony, a consultation with the Director of Music, Daniel Segner, should be arranged no later than 30 days before the wedding. You can contact Daniel at musicdirector@stmarksglenellyn.org or (630) 858-1020, ext. 225.

Music appropriate to the joy and solemnity of the occasion should be selected for the wedding. The parish musician will select from standard organ repertoire to play before the service (prelude). Suggestions will also be made for processional and recessional music as well as hymns, solos, or any other instrumental music. The choices of music will be made in consultation with the couple.

One of the important decisions for couples is the music selections they make for the wedding ceremony. Weddings typically include processionals and sometimes hymns and instrumental selections. Such music should be of an appropriate and sacred nature. One example of music to avoid is "Here Comes the Bride". Ironically, this music has its origins in a secular opera which has a tragic ending. There is another well-known recessional that comes from a pagan play. The good news is that there is a great deal of music available for weddings, and our music director can help you with music options.

If the couple wishes to use another organist for the ceremony, then it is standard procedure for the parish organist to still receive the base wedding fee even if he does not play for the service. These guidelines are taken from those adopted by the American Guild of Organists.

The base wedding fee includes one consultation with the couple, as well as playing for the ceremony. Soloists of any kind require an additional fee which is assessed per soloist.

Photography

Photography and video serve to document the wedding and should not detract from the solemnity of the service in any way. Please be sure that your photographers are aware of the following guidelines.

1. Video and still photography may be taken from behind the last pew occupied by guests. With prior approval, stills and videos may be shot from the balcony, provided the cameras do not interfere with the musicians. **There are to be no tripods set up directly behind the organist's bench.**
2. No cables may be run in the church for external sound sources.
3. No additional lighting may be used. The available lighting of the church is adequate for photographic needs.
4. Still photographers and videographers may re-stage aspects of the ceremony following the wedding.
5. No flash photography is permitted during the service. Flash may be used during the recessional when the bride and the groom are departing from the church.
6. If photographs are to be taken following the service, please allow for no more than 45 minutes. If it is felt that additional time will be needed, please make arrangements with the wedding coordinator.

Bulletins or Programs

There are two options for bulletins or programs for the wedding service:

1. St. Mark's will produce a bulletin for a fee of \$100.00 **if staff is available.**
2. No bulletin or program will be used for the wedding.

If a program or bulletin is to be printed, regardless of who will be doing the printing, all information should be reviewed by the Rector two weeks prior to the service.

Facilities

The Church seats 300 people. The Lady Chapel seats about 20.

The Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will assign a wedding coordinator to assist you with planning and handling your wedding. A suggested donation for this service is listed on the fee schedule. The wedding coordinator is May Anstee. She can be reached by phone at (630) 247-0933 or e-mail at m-anstee@comcast.net.

Wedding Participants

Note: At a time when gender-specific language for weddings is still common, and in an effort to be clear about the roles of different members of the wedding party, we are currently using both traditional and gender-neutral terms to describe each one.

There are two main attendants, each of whom has certain responsibilities for one member of the wedding couple.

Primary Attendant 1 (The Best Man) ensures that the groom gets to the church on time. They take charge of the marriage license and ensures that it is presented to the officiant at the rehearsal. They are in charge of the bride's wedding ring and normally carry it during the service. They also sign documents as directed by the officiant.

Primary Attendant 2 (The Maid or Matron of Honor) helps the bride with her wedding clothing and ensures that the bride gets to the church on time. They take charge of the groom's ring and carry it during the ceremony. They also sign documents as directed by the officiant.

Other wedding party attendants (Groomsmen and Bridesmaids) are typically included in a wedding party as well. Due to space limitations we recommend no more than three groomsmen and three bridesmaids. Please consult with your wedding coordinator if you need more.

Ushers You should choose at least two ushers. We suggest that *ushers not double as groomsmen/other attendants* as they are required to escort the wedding couple's mothers and to seat late arrivers. Ushers ordinarily distribute programs, and keep the traffic flow both in and out of the church efficient. We suggest that when selecting ushers, the wedding couple remember that they must be able to carry out the tasks described above.

Child attendants (Ring bearer and flower girls) Please keep in mind the age and maturity of the children that occupy these roles if you choose to fill them. It is best that their parents not be standing up front as part of the bridal party if the children are ages five and under. It is highly recommended that arrangements be made for a relative or close family friend to be responsible for them after the start of the service.

Other roles

You may also invite other friends and relatives to participate by serving as readers, and as acolytes carrying the cross and torches. Please consult with clergy about this.

The Big Day

The bridal party, including the wedding couple, are highly encouraged to dress for the day prior to arriving at the church. Please do not bring food or drinks into the Sanctuary of the church building. The wedding coordinator can advise you as to where in the building food and drink may be consumed.

Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed at the church prior to, or during, the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony. Please be sure that all participants are aware of this restriction.

Limos

Limos are to park in the south (upper) parking lot during the ceremony. After the ceremony, when notified, the limo can be moved to the front of the church on Main Street.

Parking

Please be sure that your guests know that there are two parking lots at St. Mark's and that they know how to reach both of them. The upper lot is south of the building with an entrance from Main Street, and the lower lot is east of the building with an entrance from Hillside.

After the Ceremony

It is not recommended that the bride and groom escort guests out of the church since this can often be a quite lengthy procedure. It is also recommended that the receiving line be at the reception. Your wedding coordinator can suggest several "exit" plans.

We are so happy you're choosing St. Mark's to celebrate your wedding day! Please call our main office with any other questions at (630) 858-1020. Thank you!