

Wedding Guidelines

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church

The couple involved should contact the Rector of St. Augustine's parish. Parents and relatives cannot make arrangements for the Service. Plan the date for the Service well in advance. Both parties together should plan for at least four conferences with the Priest prior to the wedding day. Notices and invitations should not be sent to family and friends until the date HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE RECTOR. The Celebration and Blessing of a marriage, printed in the Book of Common Prayer, (pages 423-432) is the only authorized service of the Church.

The correct name of the parish church, as it should appear on invitations is:

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church
475 43rd Avenue
Vero Beach, Florida

The Marriage License should be delivered to the clergy not later than the night of the rehearsal.

Expense Items:

\$150.00 For the sexton

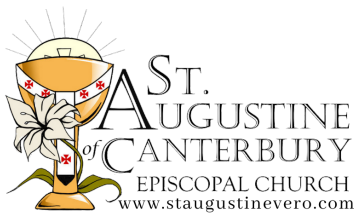
\$50.00 To provide one vase of white flowers for the Altar.
Flowers are to remain on the Altar.
Flowers are ordered by the Altar Guild.

Palms and additional flowers are permitted only when arranged for with the Rector. No flowers will go on the Altar; no bunting is to go around the Altar Rails. No flowers in the aisle.

We recommend that the white-runner be omitted.

\$300.00 Organist Fee. The Organist will be present for the rehearsal and for the Marriage Service. Music selections can be arranged directly with the Organist, who with the Rector, insist that only sacred music be used.

\$1000.00 Donation to the church (for non-members).



Fees are the responsibility of the bride's family and should be presented the night before the wedding, at the rehearsal.

The PHOTOGRAPHER may take pictures of the wedding party coming into the church, using a flash camera, if desired. The VIDEOGRAPHER, if there is to be one, may also take videos of the wedding party coming into the church, as well. HOWEVER, once the Service begins, the photographer is to retire to the rear of the church; the videographer to the area just behind, either the Organist, or in the corresponding area on the right side of the church. PHOTOS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SERVICE. It is our hope that both the bride and the groom's families will notify friends and relatives of this custom in this parish church.

We strongly recommend that flower girls, ring-bearers, junior bridesmaids, be above the age of five years to be a part of the wedding procession. We have found that children younger than five years of age, simply do not have any understanding of their place during the Service.

Families often ask to have a receiving line in the Narthex. This should be arranged with the Priest, beforehand, and conducted with dignity while in the parish church. The bride's family is responsible for the conduct of the guests.

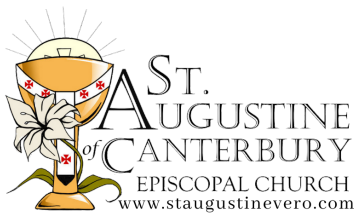
BE PROMPT about appointments for conferences, rehearsal, and the wedding liturgy itself. A Saturday afternoon wedding runs the risk of being shortened, due to the need to prepare the church for the Saturday evening Eucharist. A late-starting wedding, will shorten the photographs after the Service.

ANY SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE SERVICE must be given to the Organist ONE MONTH in advance of the Service, to insure adequate preparation for the liturgy.

In the course of planning a wedding, and in working with the clergy, the question of what constitutes music effective for worship is sometimes brought to mind. There have been myriads of musical pieces written for the marriage rites of the Church, and these will be explored with the couple as they prepare for the celebration of the Service. However, there are some which are NOT appropriate for a wedding in the parish:

- "The Wedding March"from Mendelssohn
- "The Bridal March"from Wagner
- "We've Only Just Begun"the Carpenters
- "Sunrise, sunset!"from "Fiddler on the Roof"

Music such as this is perfect for the reception; IT IS NOT suitable during the Rite of Christian Marriage.



The Organist of the parish is THE chief musician during the rite, and will be contacted by the clergy, as the wedding day approaches, to make sure that music will be provided. If the Organist is not able to attend, then the bridal couple might engage another Organist, with the clergy's approval.

It is hoped that these guidelines will prove helpful in providing a framework for discussion as we prepare to celebrate the Rite of Christian Marriage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Augustine of Canterbury

The Rev. Wes Shields, Rector

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