

Marriage at Saint Peter's

Congratulations on your engagement! We would be delighted to assist and support you in your marriage, and hope that you will choose to be married at St. Peter's Church. To check availability for the date of your wedding, please contact Parish Administrator Kate Randall at randall@stpetersphila.org or 215-925-5968.

Before the Ceremony

To be married at St. Peter's Church, you do not need to be members here; however, the Episcopal Church requires that at least one of the parties be baptized. We ask couples to attend three sessions of premarital counseling by a clergy person or qualified counselor prior to the wedding. Premarital conversations provide an opportunity for the couple and clergy to get to know one another, explore family issues and concerns, discuss the meaning of marriage, and plan the ceremony. We hope that the process of preparation will lead you to a church home here or elsewhere. We invite you during the months leading up to your wedding to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

Second Marriage (or more)

A prior marriage and divorce is not an impediment to marriage. We recognize that sometimes the healthiest option in a relationship involves ending that relationship. The canons of the church require the priest to receive written permission from the bishop in order to officiate. Generally, this is all fairly straightforward, but additional time must be allowed for the wedding preparations.

The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage

We begin with the Book of Common Prayer (1979) and the 1982 Hymnal as the primary texts for the liturgies we celebrate. Within the traditional framework of the Episcopal wedding service there is almost always some creative flexibility possible as long as it is theologically appropriate and in good taste. There are many opportunities for family and guests in the wedding party to be involved especially as readers of Holy Scripture and in the prayers.

Wedding Coordinator

St. Peter's Wedding Coordinator works with couples to ensure all aspects of the ceremony run smoothly from start to finish. The coordinator runs the wedding rehearsal along with the clergy. Couples should plan to meet the coordinator in advance to discuss any questions they may have regarding wedding day logistics. When possible, it is advisable to combine the meeting of the Wedding Coordinator with that of the organist, but it can be arranged for other times as well. For those living outside Philadelphia, emails and phone calls can substitute for an in-person meeting.

Wedding Planning

St. Peter's clergy work with you to plan the religious service. We do not have the means to schedule the "non-liturgical" events associated with your wedding. Arranging a reception, photographers, hotels, hairdressers, transport, etc. are well beyond our sphere. We are, however, often able to refer you to independent professionals who may be helpful. Our Wedding Coordinator will work with you and the clergy to ensure your wedding ceremony runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Wedding Music

Music at St. Peter's Church is led by Dr. Darryl Roland, Director of Music Ministry and Choirmaster. Dr. Roland or our Assistant Organist Matt Boatmon will be happy to perform for your wedding service and assist you in planning your wedding music. Consultations for planning wedding music usually take place immediately after a Sunday 11 a.m. service, but can be arranged for other times as well.

There is a wide variety of music available to help your ceremony have the dignity, festivity, and joy that you deserve. You are welcome to bring your specific music ideas to the meeting, but do not feel you need to figure this out on your own; we are here to help you!

The musicians of St. Peter's have the right of first refusal to perform for all weddings at the church. If you wish to have a different organist perform, permission must be granted by the St. Peter's musicians.

Decorations

Carpets or aisle runners, scattering of flower petals as well as extra candles, etc. are not permitted at St. Peter's due to safety concerns. It is strongly advised that floral designers visit St. Peter's before the wedding service; it is the responsibility of the floral designers to arrange a mutually convenient time for the delivery of flowers, bouquets, etc.

The Unity Candle ceremony is rarely used in the Episcopal Church and it is difficult to perform this ceremony with elegance and in safety at St. Peter's. It is strongly discouraged.

Photography

Please discuss photography with the Wedding Coordinator. There is an attempt to meet the demands for permanent record of this special day but also to preserve the profound dignity of the unique occasion. No flash photography is permitted.

Renewal of Marriage Vows

With the obvious exception of premarital counseling, the same planning, preparation, and fees to the church will be expected for a Renewal of Marriage Vows celebration.

Wedding Fees

As you have chosen to have your wedding at St. Peter's Church, we ask that you share in the expense of supporting our parish ministry and church facilities. The fee for celebrating your wedding at St. Peter's Church is \$2,900. That includes use of the church for the wedding rehearsal and ceremony, three premarital counseling sessions with a clergy person from St. Peter's Church, pre-wedding planning meetings, rehearsal and ceremony with clergy, organist for ceremony, and assistance of St. Peter's wedding coordinator.

A \$500 deposit (non-refundable) is required when you book the date. The balance of the wedding fee is due no less than thirty days before the ceremony.

Checklist

Immediately

- Contact Parish Administrator to check on availability of church and clergy for desired date and submit \$500 non-refundable deposit.
- Complete Wedding Application form.
- Once the church has been booked, the Wedding Coordinator will be in touch to discuss St. Peter's wedding guidelines and answer any questions you may have.

4-6 Months

- Contact Darryl Roland or Matt Boatmon to set up appointment to discuss wedding music.
- Arrange for other musicians (brass, vocalists, etc.), if desired.
- Arrange for premarital counseling sessions with clergy.
- When known, notify the Wedding Coordinator of vendor choices—florist, photographer, videographer, wedding planner (if used), etc.

6 Weeks

- Complete premarital counseling.
- Finalize wedding music selections.

3-4 Weeks

- Balance of wedding fee is due.
- Send ceremony program to your Officiant for review.
- Finalize wedding day schedule with Wedding Coordinator.

Day Before

- Rehearse wedding ceremony with Wedding Coordinator, clergy, and bridal party. Bring marriage license, ceremony programs, readings, etc.
- Sign registry.

Day Of

- Relax, smile, and enjoy the day!

Contact List

Clergy

The Reverend Claire Nevin-Field

The Reverend Sean Lanigan

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lanigan@stpetersphila.org

Parish Administrator

Ms. Kate Randall

randall@stpetersphila.org

St. Peter's Musicians

Dr. Darryl Roland

Mr. Matt Boatmon

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Wedding Coordinator

Ms. Katherine Fanelli

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