

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

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 at least 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, The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant, 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 Music

St. Peter's organist 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 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 and you will still pay the full wedding fees.

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

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

Wedding Fees

We ask that you share in the expenses of supporting our parish ministry and church facilities. The fee for using the church for a ceremony, rehearsal, organist, pre-marital counseling, and incidental fees is \$2,900. This fee does not include the ceremony program, childcare, playing of the church bells, or optional musicians. There is an additional \$100 fee if you'd like the organist to attend the rehearsal. There is a discount available for parishioners of St. Peter's Church (persons who have formally joined as members of St. Peter's and made a pledge of financial support for at least the previous twelve months). Payment is due no less than thirty days before the wedding ceremony.

Checklist

Immediately

- Contact Parish Administrator to check on availability of church and clergy for desired date and submit a \$100 deposit.
- Complete Wedding Application form.
- Once the church has been booked, please contact the Parish Administrator to discuss St. Peter's wedding guidelines, fees, or to answer any questions you may have.

4-6 Months

- Contact St. Peter's organist 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 Parish Administrator of vendor choices—florist, photographer, videographer, wedding planner etc.

6 Weeks

- Complete premarital counseling.
- Finalize wedding music selections.

3-4 Weeks

- Submit remainder of fees.
- Send ceremony program to your Officiant for review.
- Finalize wedding day schedule with Parish Administrator.

Day Before

- Rehearse wedding ceremony with 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 Sarah Hedgis

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Parish Administrator

Ms. Kate Randall

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