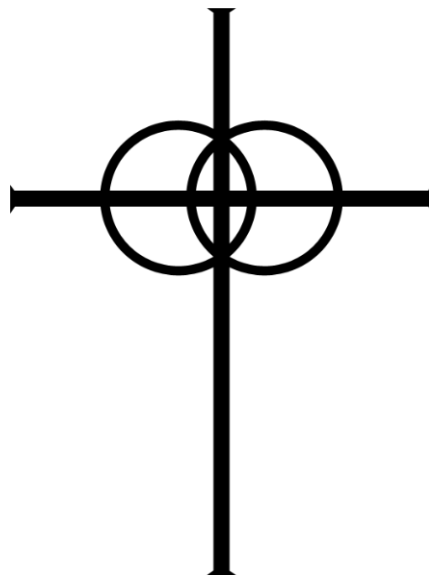


# *The Wedding Customary*



All Saints' Episcopal Church  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Revised June 2010**

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## Your Wedding at All Saints'

We rejoice with you in the news of your forthcoming marriage and in your wish to have that marriage blessed at All Saints' Episcopal Church. All of us at All Saints' stand ready to assist you in making this one of the most beautiful and joyous events of your life. Since the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is first and foremost an act of Christian worship, our aim on this happy occasion is to enable you to plan a service and a new life centered around Christ and his love. Consistent with that understanding, the Parish Church (either the Nave or one of its Chapels) is the appropriate location for the marriage to occur. This rules out venues such as in gardens, or at lakesides, or while sky diving, etc. That you share this conviction with us is apparent in your desire to have your marriage blessed in this parish.

The following pages are designed to make the planning of your wedding and your new life together as beautiful as possible. Contained in this customary is information about what the Church teaches about Holy Matrimony, the guidelines that we follow in this parish, a schedule of the fees appropriate to your wedding, a timetable that will assist you in planning dates and details, and a list of personnel who are able to help you with any questions you may have along the way.

Once again, we are glad that you wish to be married here. We look forward to planning a worship service that will glorify God and enrich the bond that is growing between you.

### Who may be married at All Saints'?

Since the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage takes place within the Christian community and is first and foremost an act of worship and not a private service for the bride and groom, it is important that those who wish to be married here be active participants in our community. Commitment is an integral aspect of Holy Matrimony. Studies show that those who are committed to God through worship and monetary support of a Christian community are better able to commit to each other and affect long, successful marriages. All Saints' will officiate at marriages only when the bride and groom demonstrate through their attendance and support such a commitment to God. This requirement underscores our deep concern for a caring, supportive, and pastoral relationship between the Church and the couple before, during, and after the wedding. The Canons (Church law) of the Episcopal Church require that at least one of the persons to be married is baptized. (It is highly desirable that both parties be baptized, practicing Christians.) All Saints' is a parish Church not a wedding chapel. Therefore, regular worship attendance and appropriate stewardship of time, talent, and treasure (including but not limited to the financial support of this parish) by the couple are important and required components in being married here.

Should there be a divorce in the history of either the bride or groom, there are certain canonical requirements, described in detail in the pages to follow, which must be met.

# Planning for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

## **The First Step: Visit with the Rector**

It is the responsibility of both the prospective bride and groom to arrange for all aspects of their marriage at All Saints'. The Rector and his staff do not communicate with the couple through intermediaries, including mothers, fathers, wedding consultants to name a few. From the very first meeting on, the couple must be responsible for all decisions and plans. This can not be given to others.

For a variety of very good reasons, there is a very specific order in which preparation for Christian Marriage must be done. Please follow the guidelines in the paragraphs below to ensure that your wedding plans are made in an appropriate fashion.

One of the first steps in planning a wedding is setting the date. No date can be confirmed on the parish calendar until the couple meets with the Rector to begin plans for the wedding. Only the Rector may officially calendar the date after an initial, in-person consultation. Marriages are not performed during Lent or Advent. When unusual circumstances make it necessary, the Bishop's permission must be secured in advance. On such occasions, consistent with these seasons, the service and reception will be very simple.

Although the canons require a minimum of thirty (30) days' notice before a wedding, at least six (6) months is the norm for marriage preparation in this parish. This ensures that none of the several aspects of your preparation will be rushed.

## **The next step: Satisfying the Canons (Episcopal Church Law)**

We at All Saints' want you to have the best possible preparation and foundation for your new life together. We have developed an intensive course to prepare couples for the joys and challenges they will meet in the new life that lies ahead. Paramount to the success of a marriage is the understanding that marriage represents a life-long commitment, full of opportunities to serve one another in Christ's Name. It is required that each couple who wishes to be married here understands the nature of that commitment and signs a document, called the Declaration of Intention (found in our Wedding Preparation Class Handouts). It reads:

*We, (groom) and (bride), desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a life-long union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. We believe that the union of husband and wife, 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.*

In the signing of this document, the bride and groom commit themselves to a life-long covenantal union, rendering any pre-nuptial property agreements inappropriate. As the intentions expressed in such pre-nuptial agreements contradict the Church's teaching on Holy Matrimony, the policy is that no marriages will be solemnized in this parish when pre-nuptial property agreements are deemed necessary.

Each couple wishing to be married here will participate in **All Saints' Pre-Marriage Course** which includes the following:

1. An initial interview with the Rector and the determination to either continue or not continue with the process of being married here.
2. A series of group classes and private sessions covering the Episcopal Church's teaching on Holy Matrimony as found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, Bible study, love, marriage as both covenant and sacrament, and the couple's finances.
3. Discussion of the compatibility of temperaments and families or origin, and issues which cause marital stress (such as money, relatives, in-laws, religion, intimacy and sex) are a very important part in your preparation. Included in this phase of the preparation is the evaluation of two confidential questionnaires by our consultant, whose report will be used to help the priest identify any issues on which the couple's attention should be focused.
4. Planning the actual service as set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*, including choosing the readings, music, and other important details, will be part of every couple's pre-marital preparation.

At the end of this part of the preparation, a great deal of work having been done and serious introspection having been accomplished, it will be the decision of the couple to either proceed with plans to be married, delay the wedding date, or cancel the marriage altogether. The priest, in consultation with the couple, is obliged to provide input to the couple with respect to his judgment about their impending marriage, as the Canons of the Episcopal Church provide *that it shall be within the discretion of any Minister of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage*. Should the decision to solemnize the marriage be made by the couple and with the consent of the preparing priest, invitations may be mailed at this time and final plans made.

5. A one-hour rehearsal of the Marriage Service, conducted by the officiating priest, with all participants present, on time, and participating is the last step in the preparation.

#### **If you have been previously married . . .**

Without the consent and approval of the Bishop of this Diocese, per the authority and restrictions of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, no minister in this Church is permitted to solemnize the marriage of anyone, anywhere, who has previously been married and divorced. The procedure for a person, previously married, to obtain permission to marry in the Church requires additional time, as special documents, available from the priest, must be prepared and submitted to the Bishop for his judgment. The Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth requires no fewer than sixty (60) days to make such a judgment. If you have been previously married, add a minimum of sixty (60) days to this process.

## The Prayer Book Service \*

All Saints' Episcopal Church uses the *Book of Common Prayer* published in 1979 for its services, weddings included. The Holy Eucharist is customarily celebrated at weddings as, throughout the centuries, brides and grooms have begun their married life together by offering that life in the context of Holy Communion, strengthened and nourished with God's grace to meet the challenges and demands that lie ahead. As Holy Matrimony is first an act of Christian worship, all baptized Christians present who are able to receive communion in their own Church will be invited to participate in and receive Holy Communion.

The Prayer Book Service of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage takes approximately forty-five minutes, depending on the number of guests and the size of the wedding party. A homily (sermon based on the readings chosen by the couple) is preached at all weddings at All Saints'. Considering the solemnity of the occasion, the service cannot and will not be rushed.

\* See also *Professional Wedding Consultants and Your Preparation* at the end of this booklet.

## Participating Clergy

The priest who has helped the couple prepare for their marriage is the appropriate priest to solemnize that marriage. If an Episcopal priest other than one from All Saints' parish staff is desired to assist (or officiate), the permission and invitation of the Rector is required according to Canon Law (Title III, Canon 21, Section 5a). The location of the wedding other than in the parish church changes nothing; non-parochial priests may only function with the permission and invitation of the Rector of the parish.

Guest clergy (other than Episcopal priests and deacons) are invited from time to time to read the lessons, lead prayers, and/or preach. *The Book of Common Prayer*, the guidelines of which all Episcopal priests at their ordinations have sworn to uphold, is very specific about who may do what. These guidelines may not be violated in any way.

## Music and the Wedding Ceremony

There is a wealth of beautiful and appropriate sacred music that is suitable for use in the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. Following the guidelines of the *Book of Common Prayer*, such music includes hymns, psalms, anthems, and instrumental music. As the wedding is a service of worship designed to involve the entire congregation, congregational singing is encouraged. Therefore, solo vocal performances are not allowed. From time to time additional instrumentalists and/or choirs may be used to augment the music and enhance the worship at a wedding. The Organist/Choirmaster will assist you in selecting beautiful and appropriate music for your wedding and will hire and supervise all other musicians involved in the service. After the initial consultation with the priest when the wedding date is set, a meeting should be set with the Organist/Choirmaster at the earliest mutually convenient time. He is Mr. Frederick Grimes and is in his office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. You may contact him at 817-732-1424.

“Hymns referred to in the rubrics of this Book are to be understood as those authorized by this Church. The words of anthems are to be from Holy Scripture, or from this Book, or from texts congruent with them.” (Book of Common Prayer, page 14) The Canons of this Church give the final authority for the music used in any liturgical setting to the Rector of the parish in which the liturgy is being performed. It is ultimately the Rector's decision that will be binding with respect to the propriety of any particular music selection.

## Flowers and Decorations

All Saints' is blessed with a competent and talented Flower Guild which is responsible for all flowers used in the wedding, with the exception of the bride's bouquet, boutonnieres, bridesmaids' flowers, and reception decorations. Outside florists may be engaged only to provide those flowers expressly not provided by our Flower Guild and may not provide flowers to decorate the Church's worship spaces.

The cost of flowers is determined by what the couple selects. There is a basic cost that covers the flowers for the High Altar which will be the only flower expense you will incur if that is the only arrangement you select. Aisle markers, candelabra or other arrangements will increase floral costs accordingly and proportionately.

The flowers and candles used in decorating the Church become the property of the Church and, when the wedding is on Friday or Saturday, the High Altar flowers will be used on Sunday morning. For weddings during the week, the flowers will be broken down and used on the other Altars of the Church for daily services.

Flowers furnished by outside florists may be received during the regular business hours of the Church and must arrive well in advance of the hour of the wedding. The Parish Office closes at noon on Saturdays, so outside florist's flowers must be delivered before 12:00 noon for Saturday weddings.

After the initial consultation with the priest when the date is set, the couple should make arrangements to meet with the Flower Guild Wedding Coordinator as soon as mutually convenient.

The color for Altar hangings and clergy vestments is always white for weddings. No aisle runners are necessary nor are they permitted at All Saints' Church. Likewise, rose petals (real or artificial) are not allowed to be strewn nor scattered by a flower girl or junior bridesmaid.

The Flower Guild and Altar Guild, as all guilds and organizations at All Saints', are made up of volunteer parishioners who spend many hours decorating the Church for a wedding, preparing the vestments for the clergy, and a variety of other very important tasks. A note of appreciation after the wedding is appropriate and always appreciated by both Guilds.

## Other Wedding Policies

It is our policy to schedule only one wedding at All Saints' on any given day. No wedding may be scheduled later than 7:00 p.m. Besides the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent in which there are no weddings, there are a few other days in the life of the parish, some Saturdays in particular, on which weddings are not scheduled.

## Photographs

To ensure the solemnity of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, we have strict rules. The wedding is a religious rite not a photo-op. No photos or videos are allowed *except by those whose services you have engaged and who have been briefed per the policies on page 14 of this Customary*. Videography of your wedding must be arranged by you. If so, we strongly suggest using a professional. As with photographers, videographers must comply with the rules as outlined above. When they speak with the priest performing your wedding, appropriate and

approved placement of the video camera will be discussed. It is the videographer's responsibility to arrange for any hardware, cameras, cables, etc., as none of these is available through the Church. Other than the professional photographers or videographers you have hired, no other photography or videography is permitted.

It is the responsibility of the couple to provide a copy of these guidelines to their photographer/videographer, and to make sure photographers/videographers call as required.

## Rice and Related Items

The use of rice, rose petals, confetti, and other such items creates serious ecological, practical, theological, and disposal problems and may not be used at All Saints' Church. Although quite undesirable, it is permissible to use bird seed on the lawn outside the Nave or Parish Hall but, in order to insure that no bird seed enters the building, it must be stored and distributed to the guests outside.

## Service Leaflets

Since the wedding is a liturgy of the Church, we always prepare and use a service leaflet. The service leaflet is a tool generated by the Church to assist people in worship during your wedding. Whereas you may do whatever you want in terms of your invitations, this is not the case for the service leaflet. The service leaflet is not another opportunity to express your personalities or your hopes and wishes. Since we are not a professional print shop, the quality is rather simple. This is *not* a bad thing, however. The use of illegible fonts or ribbons that inhibit rather than augment the practical use of the service bulletin is out of place and highly discouraged. If you wish to hire a professional in order to have glossy material with whatever photographs or sentiments or graphics you choose, that's fine. However, the most fitting place for that material to be distributed is the reception *after* the service.

## Invitations to the Wedding and Other Parties

It is appropriate that invitations to the wedding be sent out only after the course of pre-marital instruction is complete. Following the timetable in this Customary with respect to the pre-marital preparation will be very helpful and may avoid any embarrassment that premature mailing may create.

## Receptions in the Parish Hall

There are no receptions in the church following weddings. We are not equipped or staffed for parties, music, and dancing. Please book your reception off-campus.

## With respect to alcohol or intoxication

It must be made absolutely clear to all in the wedding party that the presence of alcoholic beverages or any degree of intoxication whatsoever will not be tolerated at the rehearsal or the wedding itself. To that end, alcoholic beverages are not permitted at All Saints' before any wedding, including the parking lot. A substantial percentage of our wedding horror stories have to do with alcohol and/or intoxication at rehearsals and weddings. There is no subtle nor graceful way to say this: Should alcohol surface as a problem in the opinion of the officiating priest, the wedding will be canceled without apology or warning and without rescheduling. It is the sole responsibility of the bride and groom to communicate this to the wedding party.

## Number of Attendants

Space at the Altar Rail allows no more than seven (7) attendants each for the bride and groom, fewer being preferable and in better taste. This includes flower girls and ring bearers. It is preferable that you not have flower girls and ring bearers as they are quite unnecessary and often become a significant distraction at many weddings.

## About the Wedding Rehearsal

### Scheduling

The rehearsal is normally held on the day before the wedding. If there is to be a rehearsal dinner, it should be scheduled not less than one and one half hours after the hour set for the rehearsal.

### Participation

All members of the wedding party, including the bride, groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, parents of the bride and groom, flower girl, ring bearer, etc., are expected to participate fully in the rehearsal. Since the bride must learn her role as well, she will take her part in the rehearsal.

### Promptness and Length

It is in bad taste and rude for the participants in weddings to arrive late at the rehearsal. All members of the wedding party are expected to attend and be on time. Rehearsals cannot begin until all the participants in the wedding are present, and because of the solemnity of the preparation, rehearsals cannot and will not be rushed. The average time of a rehearsal is approximately one hour. It is in the best interests of the dinner following, the rehearsal that may be scheduled after yours, and all concerned that the wedding party be impressed with the importance of being on time.

### Responsibility for the Rehearsal

The officiating priest, both by virtue of the Canons and familiarity with the Church building and liturgy itself, conducts both the rehearsal and the wedding. As there will have been sufficient time for the couple, in consultation with their priest, to plan all the details of the service in advance, input from the wedding party or from a professional wedding consultant at the time of the rehearsal or wedding is not appreciated nor accepted. The Canons of the Church provide that the Rector is the final responsibility for determining the propriety of all arrangements and details. If a professional wedding consultant is used, it is important that this person understands that the responsibility for the wedding, including the rehearsal and procession, belongs to the officiating priest.

## Marriage License

In order to avoid mishaps, the marriage license will be delivered to the officiating priest at the time of the rehearsal. This is not a detail which can be forgotten on the day of the marriage as Texas Law prohibits a minister from solemnizing any marriage without the appropriate license. Both parties must appear in person to purchase a license from the County Clerk at the Courthouse. Please remember that Texas Law requires marriages take place at least three (3) days after and not longer than thirty (30) days after the marriage license has been issued.

## The Wedding Dress

We suggest that you make arrangements to have your wedding dress (as well as the attendants' dresses) delivered to the Church on the day of the rehearsal, thereby removing one more detail from the day of the wedding. From time to time the Bride's Room is not available on the day of the rehearsal, so you must call the Church **before** the delivery of your dress. The

dresses may be delivered until 4:00 p.m. on the day of the rehearsal (and until noon if the rehearsal is on Saturday) and will be kept in the locked Bride's Room until you dress. Please make arrangements with the Rector's Assistant, Vickie Merrill, with respect to the delivery of the dress so that the Bride's Room will be available and secured after your dresses are delivered.

## Modesty in Dresses

Please, please before you commit to any wedding dress or bridesmaids' dresses, remember that you will be wearing them in a sacred space, the Church. Modesty is the rule, women. If you must have dresses that immodestly expose your assets, be considerate and include a shoulder wrap with your ensemble for the wedding itself. You can always leave the wrap later for the reception.

## Food and Drink

It just takes one little mishap with a beverage, cigarette, or food item to soil and ruin a white wedding dress. It is for this reason that food, drink (including water), or smoking of any kind is not permitted in the Bride's Room. There is, as well, no smoking inside any buildings of All Saints' Church and School. These rules are strictly enforced.

## The Day of the Wedding

### **Arrival Time**

All members of the wedding party must arrive at the Church two (2) hours before the scheduled time of the wedding. The groom, groomsmen and ushers will arrive dressed and ready to go; the bride and bridesmaids may dress in the facilities provided in the Church.

### **The Bride's Room**

A lovely Bride's Room will be ready for your use two hours before your wedding. Again, no food nor drink is allowed in the Bride's Room at any time as we wish to insure that a last minute spill does not mar the bride's lovely dress.

The Bride's Room will be locked during the wedding and will be opened immediately after the service is completed. Please make arrangements to have someone responsible see that all personal effects are removed from the Bride's Room after the liturgy is over. The delegation of this responsibility to someone other than the bride or bride's mother is well worth the effort.

### **Facilities for the Men in the Wedding Party**

The groom, groomsmen and ushers will arrive already dressed. The Parlor will be available for their use before the service. Like the Bride's Room, it is important that all personal effects be removed from the Parlor immediately after the service. The delegation of this responsibility to someone other than the groom or best man is a good idea.

## **Ushers**

Ushers at an All Saints' wedding are expected to fulfill two important responsibilities: the seating of guests, and the ushering of the congregation to the Altar Rail to receive Holy Communion. Please select responsible adult males for this very important role. Conscientious ushers expedite the seating of guests and reduce both congestion and noise from the Narthex. It is the custom in this Church to remain silent in the Nave before a service of the Church, allowing the congregation a quiet moment of reflection before the service begins. Good ushers model and facilitate such a silence, enhancing the service and its solemnity.

When specifically asked, ushers seat guests of the bride on the north (left) side of the congregation, while seating guests of the groom on the south (right) side. If either the bride or groom is from out of town, or it is known in advance that one party has considerably fewer guests than the other, ushers should seat guests who are not members of the family indiscriminately. Ushers offer their left arm to the lady being escorted to her seat, her escort following immediately behind. After the usher has seated the guest, he continues to the crossing, bows at the Altar, and returns to the back of the Church by the side aisle, thereby reducing congestion in the center aisle during the seating of the guests. Many people arrive early to sit on the aisle and, in order to respect that wish, ushers should not insist that a guest move to the center of a pew in order to seat someone else. Near the time of the start of the wedding, grandparents of the groom and bride will be seated respectively.

The seating of the groom's mother takes place approximately five minutes prior to the start of the wedding service. The seating of the bride's mother takes place approximately three minutes before the scheduled time of the wedding and marks the time that all members of the procession should be in place. The bride's mother, usually seated by the head usher or an usher who is a family member or a close friend, is the last person to be seated by an usher using the center aisle. Guests who arrive after this point will be ushered to a seat via the side aisles.

For best results, a minimum of four ushers who are not serving as groomsmen are necessary and required for a wedding at All Saints'.

## **The Procession**

As for all the services of the Church, all the ministers (including acolyte, clergy, and all members of the wedding party) enter in an appropriate liturgical procession from the back of the Church. There are a variety of options open with respect to the procession which will be explained and discussed by the officiating priest in the course of the pre-marriage course of preparation.

## **The Wedding Service Itself**

The congregation stands at the beginning of the procession and is seated after the opening collect. The congregation will be invited to stand, sit and kneel as full participants in the service following the rubrics of the Prayer Book, and will be invited to receive communion at the appropriate time and place.

## *All Saints' Good Neighbor Policy*

While rare, an exception may be made for someone to be married at All Saints' who is not currently an active member of the parish. From time to time, families who were active once in the parish and now live out of town, college students away at school, etc., will want to be married at All Saints' because of special fondness for the parish in years past. Likewise, as the building is larger than many Episcopal Churches in Fort Worth, smaller Episcopal congregations expecting a large wedding may ask to use our facility from time to time. All Saints' may allow its building (and occasionally its clergy) to be used for a wedding when, for pastoral reasons, the Rector/Vicar of another Episcopal Church requests. In such cases, a formal request must be made in writing to the Rector from the Rector/Vicar where the couple currently attends. (Under such circumstances, the couple is usually prepared by the non-resident Rector and is subject to his guidelines in their preparation.) This request must include that the couple is regular in worship and that they pledge to the financial support of the congregation for whom All Saints' will be performing the wedding.

We are not a wedding chapel and, therefore, do not host weddings from other non-Anglican churches. The bride, groom, and couples' referring Rector or Vicar for all "Good Neighbor" weddings must read, sign, assent to, and follow the Wedding Customary of All Saints' in its entirety. Under no circumstances are the participants in a "Good Neighbor" wedding allowed to move or improperly handle any of the Church's furnishings, such as Baptismal Font, Altar, etc. Neither are they allowed freehand in decorating the Church. All such plans and ideas must be discussed with the Rector of All Saints' or his designee well in advance so as to avoid last minute embarrassment or hurt feelings. The Church is not available for receptions following a "Good Neighbor" wedding.

For "Good Neighbor" weddings, the couple will be responsible for the cost involved for the typesetting as well as the printing of such a leaflet, all of which are done in-house at All Saints' Church.

## The Cost of Your Wedding

We do not charge couples that are All Saints' parishioners any money for the wedding itself at All Saints'. Performing your marriage is just one of the many ministries we do as a parish family. However, we do ask that you pay for the ancillary parts of the preparation and service and to make a thank offering for the parish's ministry by which you have been blessed. As we wish your wedding day to be free from any unnecessary preoccupations, we ask that you do pay all of these fees no later than one month before the wedding date. The preparing priest, when asked to do so, will be happy to make suggestions on how the cost of your wedding may not get out of control.

<b>For All Saints' Parishioners</b>	<b>Fees</b>
Fee for being married at All Saints'	\$0.00
Professionally evaluated psychological testing and counseling	300.00
Organist	375.00
Additional musicians	Variable
Reception in the Parish Hall	N/A
Flowers	450.00 +
Service leaflet	0.00 ++
Sexton * (4 hours):	60.00
additional fee for sexton more than 4 hours	30.00/hr
Thank Offering	500.00

**\* NOTE:**

The sexton will be at the church two hours prior to the wedding, the hour of the wedding, and one hour after the wedding. There is an extra hourly fee if you wish to arrive earlier than 2 hours before the wedding.

### For "Good Neighbor" Weddings

Fee for being married at All Saints'	\$1,000.00
Professionally evaluated psychological testing	N/A
Organist	375.00
Additional musicians	Variable
Flowers	450.00 +
Service leaflet	150.00 ++
Sexton ** (4 hours):	60.00
additional fee for sexton more than 4 hours	40.00/hr
Thank Offering	500.00

**\* NOTE:**

The sexton will be at the church two hours prior to the wedding, the hour of the wedding, and one hour after the wedding. There is an extra hourly fee if you wish to arrive earlier than 2 hours before the wedding.

+ The final fee for flowers will be determined after meeting with the Flower Guild.

++ The final fee for the service leaflet is based upon materials used.

## Photographs

To ensure the solemnity of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, we have strict rules. All photographers and videographers, either amateur or professional, whose services you have engaged for your wedding must contact the priest performing your wedding and review these rules:

1. No pictures may be taken during the wedding service. Such pictures are appropriately taken before the wedding, and completed at least one-half hour before the service is to begin. The service begins with the playing of the music at the entry procession. The service ends with the conclusion of the music after the bridal party and ministers leave in procession.
2. Pictures may be taken in the Parlor and in the Bride's Room before the service.
3. Photographers/videographers may not stand in the center aisle.
4. All photographers/videographers may not be seen or heard by the congregation and the wedding party during the service.
5. Videography of your wedding must be arranged by you. If so, we strongly suggest using a professional. As with photographers, videographers must comply with the rules as outlined above. When they speak with the priest performing your wedding, appropriate and approved placement of the video camera will be discussed. It is the videographer's responsibility to arrange for any hardware, cameras, cables, etc., as none of these are available through the Church. Other than the professional photographers or videographers you have hired, no other photography or videography is permitted.

It is the responsibility of the couple to provide a copy of these guidelines to their photographer/videographer, and to make sure photographers/videographers call as required.

All photographers and videographers are required to telephone the Priest at All Saints' preparing you for your marriage to discuss this policy no fewer than two weeks before the wedding date. An extra copy of this page is provided to be forwarded to your photographer/videographer. Please understand that if these rules are not adhered to then you photographer/videographer will not be allowed to provide services at All Saints' in the future. An extra copy of this page is provided to be forwarded to your photographer/videographer.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT BY PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Photographer

**All Saints' Episcopal Church**

5001 Crestline Road

Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3699

Telephone: 817-732-1424

Fax: 817-731-2417

<http://www.allsaintsfortworth.org>

***This page is provided to be forwarded to your photographer/videographer***

### Photographs (*Duplicate for Photographer*)

To ensure the solemnity of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, we have strict rules. All photographers and videographers, either amateur or professional, whose services you have engaged for your wedding must contact the priest performing your wedding and review these rules:

1. No pictures may be taken during the wedding service. Such pictures are appropriately taken before the wedding, and completed at least one-half hour before the service is to begin. The service begins with the playing of the music at the entry procession. The service ends with the conclusion of the music after the bridal party and ministers leave in procession.
2. Pictures may be taken in the Parlor and in the Bride's Room before the service.
3. Photographers/videographers may not stand in the center aisle.
4. All photographers/videographers may not be seen or heard by the congregation and the wedding party during the service.
5. Videography of your wedding must be arranged by you. If so, we strongly suggest using a professional. As with photographers, videographers must comply with the rules as outlined above. When they speak with the priest performing your wedding, appropriate and approved placement of the video camera will be discussed. It is the videographer's responsibility to arrange for any hardware, cameras, cables, etc., as none of these are available through the Church. Other than the professional photographers or videographers you have hired, no other photography or videography is permitted.

It is the responsibility of the couple to provide a copy of these guidelines to their photographer/videographer, and to make sure photographers/videographers call as required.

All photographers and videographers are required to telephone the Priest at All Saints' preparing you for your marriage to discuss this policy no fewer than two weeks before the wedding date. An extra copy of this page is provided to be forwarded to your photographer/videographer. Please understand that if these rules are not adhered to then you photographer/videographer will not be allowed to provide services at All Saints' in the future. An extra copy of this page is provided to be forwarded to your photographer/videographer.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT BY PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Photographer

**All Saints' Episcopal Church**  
5001 Crestline Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3699  
Telephone: 817-732-1424  
Fax: 817-731-2417  
<http://www.allsaintsfortworth.org>

## Professional Wedding Consultants and Your Preparation

All Saints' course of preparation for Holy Matrimony is very thorough and comprehensive. It is undertaken with the understanding that a marriage involves far more than the event of the wedding itself, and treats the bride and groom, who are the ministers of the Sacrament much like a seminary would treat a candidate for Holy Orders. Couples in this process are prepared to deal with each other, with families, with the Church, and with the outside world in such a way as to draw each other closer together. Anything that would inhibit the couple from doing just that – anything that would turn over planning of significant events in their shared life or shifting the responsibilities of the planning of the service to a third party – is unacceptable and must be avoided.

All Saints' has helped hundreds of couples throughout the last fifty-plus years prepare for married life and for their weddings. Professional Wedding Consultants are less necessary at All Saints' than they would be in a parish that has less experience in these matters. As well, it would not be difficult for such consultants – with the best of intentions – to interfere with the process by helping too much and taking responsibility away from the bride and groom that they rightly should have.

Should a Professional Wedding Consultant be used, it must be understood that all the planning for the service be done by the couple and not by the consultant. It must be further understood that the consultant not be involved in the rehearsal, nor in the wedding ceremony, nor in making last minute changes or augmentations of the plans that the couple and the priest who has prepared them have made in their sessions together. All communication and information exchange between the clergy and the bride and groom – even on the day of the wedding after the parties have arrived – must be direct; messages may not be carried by third parties at any time. This is to insure that the wedding be a symbol of the marriage that follows and is characterized by direct communication, thorough planning in advance, and honoring the arrangements and commitments that have been made.

It is the responsibility of the couple to communicate all of this to a Professional Wedding Consultant, if one is used, making sure that such consultant understand that no exceptions will be made to this policy. An extra copy of this page is provided to be forwarded to such a consultant.

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## Professional Wedding Consultants and Your Preparation (Duplicate for same)

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