

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

During the wedding service, **no flash photography** is permitted in the church. Wedding guests should observe this policy as well as professional photographers. No extra lighting may used, and all intended actions and photographs must be cleared with the wedding coordinator or the rector prior to the service. It is imperative that the bride and/or groom notify professional photographers of this policy prior to the day of the wedding. Pictures may be freely taken following the service.

Professional video recording of the wedding service is permitted, however the videographer must call the clergy four weeks before the wedding to discuss arrangements. No extra lighting may used, and all intended actions must be cleared with the wedding coordinator or the rector prior to the service. It is imperative that the bride and/or groom notify the recorder of this policy.

## USHERS

At least 10 days before the wedding rehearsal, you should determine both who will serve as ushers and which ushers will be responsible for seating specific family members in special places. If names are to be printed in the program, they may need to be chosen sooner.

## SERVICE SHEET

The church will create and print a service sheet or program for the ceremony, or some couples choose to have them printed professionally. The officiating priest will work closely with the bride and groom to determine the elements of the service to be included. Any professionally printed programs must be approved by the clergy.

## RECEPTION

The Parish Hall can be rented for a reception at a fee of \$250. The capacity of this space is 80 persons seated or 120 persons standing. Each wedding party is responsible for securing its own caterer and for whatever decorations are used at the reception. No decorations or signs that require drilling holes or using tape may be used. You may serve wine or champagne only if non-alcoholic beverages are also provided in an equally attractive and accessible fashion. It is incumbent upon the family or their designee to be cognizant of safety issues with guests who will be drinking alcoholic beverages and driving vehicles later. Our sexton will clean the Parish Hall immediately after the reception. Any damage to church property is the financial responsibility of, and will be billed to, those using the facilities.

## FEES

The wedding fee is \$2,500 for pledging members and \$3,500 for non-pledging members, and is inclusive of the following:

- Pre-marital counseling meetings with the clergy
- Advice and assistance of the wedding coordinator
- Officiating Priest
- Service sheet (if requested)
- Access to the church for both the rehearsal and the wedding
- Sexton's time for rehearsal and service
- Organist (If the organist must coordinate additional musicians, additional fees may apply.)

Additional charges include flowers provided by the parish Flower Guild; additional instrumentalists and/or soloists; a choir, if requested; the use of the parish hall for a reception; the sexton's time for services other than the rehearsal and church service; and any desired audio recording.

## PAYMENT

All fees should be paid no later than four weeks prior to the wedding. Checks should be made out as listed below:

- \$1650 Church of the Redeemer (pledging member)
- \$2650 Church of the Redeemer (non-pledging member)
- \$400 Michael Diorio (Organist)
- \$250 Francesca Merritt (Wedding Coordinator)
- \$200 Paulo Reyes (Sexton)

An itemized invoice will be sent two months prior to the wedding. If additional charges, such as flowers, are incurred, they will appear on a separate invoice sent following the service.

**The clergy of The Redeemer look forward to working closely with you so that the sacrament of Holy Matrimony will be a beautiful and memorable experience.**

*Checklist for the bride and groom:*

- contact church for date & time*
- contact wedding coordinator*
- make arrangements for church flowers*
- meet with organist*
- notify photographers of 'no flash' rule*
- choose ushers*
- review service sheet*
- pay Redeemer bills*

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610.525.2486 [www.TheRedeemer.org](http://www.TheRedeemer.org)

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## A Customary for Marriage

Church of the Redeemer,  
Bryn Mawr, PA

The Episcopal Church holds that marriage is a bond and covenant established by God in creation. It signifies the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church. Thus marriage is a life-long union of two people and an unconditional commitment to one another. The Episcopal Church holds that the union of these persons 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.

Those desiring to be married in the Church are asked to sign a Declaration of Intention indicating that they understand and agree with this view of marriage. Throughout our counseling and officiating, we encourage the couple to regard their marriage in the Church as an expression of their religious faith, a faith in Jesus Christ that will, throughout their lives, sustain the health and depth of their relationship and that of their family.

## MARRIAGE IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All marriages taking place in the Church must conform to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the guidelines of the Bishop, and the Canons of the Episcopal Church. The canonical requirements are:

- At least one of the parties must be baptized.
- The officiating priest will ascertain that both parties freely and knowingly consent to marriage.
- The priest will ascertain that both parties understand that the union is both physical and spiritual and is intended to be life-long.
- The priest will instruct both parties as to the nature, meaning and purpose of Holy Matrimony.
- A minimum of two witnesses must be present at the marriage.
- The couple will sign a Declaration of Consent at least thirty days prior to the wedding.
- A priest of the Episcopal Church must receive the permission of the Bishop of this Diocese before solemnizing the marriage of a person who has had a previous marriage dissolved by a civil court and whose former spouse is still living. The wedding may not proceed unless the divorce decree has been in effect for a minimum of one year and unless the church has at least three months' notice of intention, time enough for the Bishop to grant approval for the marriage to move forward.
- At his or her discretion, a priest may decide not to proceed with officiating at a wedding.

## WEDDING SERVICE

Marriage is a sacramental rite of the Church, and all aspects of the wedding should reflect its character as such. Weddings taking place at the Church of the Redeemer will use the form of the marriage rite found in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, along with the variations and options it permits. The clergy member officiating at your service will discuss these options with you as you review *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage* (p. 423-432). Because a wedding is a worship service, attendance is open to the public. We recommend that family members, members of the wedding party, and other friends take part in the service by reading lessons and intercessions or in performing music. Engaging family and friends in the service helps personalize it for you. The clergy encourage making the Holy Eucharist part of the celebration and blessing of your marriage.

All participants in your wedding should arrive at the church at least 45 minutes before the service begins, and should also arrive promptly at the hour appointed for the rehearsal. Please notify your wedding party that their promptness in arriving will help make the event go smoothly, and thus will be a gift to you! On the day of the wedding, the church will be open for seating one hour before the wedding begins.

## SCHEDULING

In order to assure availability of the church and its clergy, all weddings should be scheduled with the parish at least six months in advance of the desired date. To initiate a request for a date, please contact Francesca Merritt at 610-525-2486 ext.14. No weddings will take place during Lent, and weddings during Advent are discouraged. The church appreciates knowing of marriage plans even before announcing your engagement, and of course no announcement of the location or date of the wedding should be made without prior agreement of the parish clergy.

## CLERGY

A member of the clergy of this parish will normally officiate at weddings held in the church. If you would like another clergy person to assist with the service, please ask the officiating priest who can extend an invitation to the visitor, given sufficient time to do so. At least one clergy member of this parish will be present at weddings here, and will determine what role the guest is to have in the service. The parish clergy person officiating at the marriage also conducts the rehearsal, which is usually scheduled on the day prior to the wedding. Whenever possible, we ask that rehearsals be scheduled at 5:00 p.m.

## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The canons of the Episcopal Church require pre-marital counseling of all couples seeking to have their marriage blessed by the Church. This counseling normally takes place under the guidance of the parish clergy person performing the marriage, and appointments for these sessions are made with him or her. The couple should anticipate up to six hours of counseling.

## WEDDING COORDINATOR

The Church of the Redeemer has a wedding coordinator who knows the church well and can assist with plans for the wedding, either on the phone or in person. Her services are included within our overall fee

structure. Please contact our wedding coordinator, Francesca Merritt, at 610-525-2486 x14 at least six weeks prior to your wedding date to go over your preparations with her. She will attend the rehearsal and the wedding and assists the bridal party as needed. If you choose to hire your own wedding advisor, the parish wedding coordinator continues to oversee proceedings at the church, both during the rehearsal and the service itself.

## MUSIC

In order to plan music for your wedding, you should arrange to meet with the Director of Music, Dr. Michael Diorio, at 610-525-2486 ext.22 at least one month before the service, or earlier if you intend to have additional musicians perform. All music for the service is subject to the discretion of the Music Director. The liturgy for Weddings is an act of worship, and the music selected for inclusion in the liturgy should be chosen from or reflect the church's own tradition and expression. The singing of congregational hymns at weddings is a joyous part of our tradition, and Michael can offer appropriate suggestions.

Either the Director of Music will play for your service or he will arrange for a suitable substitute. If you wish to hire members of our choirs, or additional instruments such as trumpet, please discuss your plans before making any contacts, since additional rehearsal times will inevitably influence the selection of other musicians. Fees will be sent upon request. Our staff musicians know and can help you identify talented performers in this region.

## DECORATIONS AND FLOWERS

The clergy will advise you on decorations proposed for the ceremony. We do not permit cloth runners in the church or the tossing of confetti, rice, or any other substance at the bride and groom as they depart from the church.

The parish Flower Guild is responsible for all flowers within the church. This includes flowers on or near the altar, pews, narthex, and chapel. Flowers used at weddings become the property of the church and may be used as a celebration of your marriage during our regular Sunday services. To make arrangements for flowers for your service in the church, please contact Jan Clarke at 610-667-3605 or call the parish office. Note that payment for flowers is not included in the wedding fees. You should purchase flowers carried or worn by members of the bridal party from a florist of your own choosing.