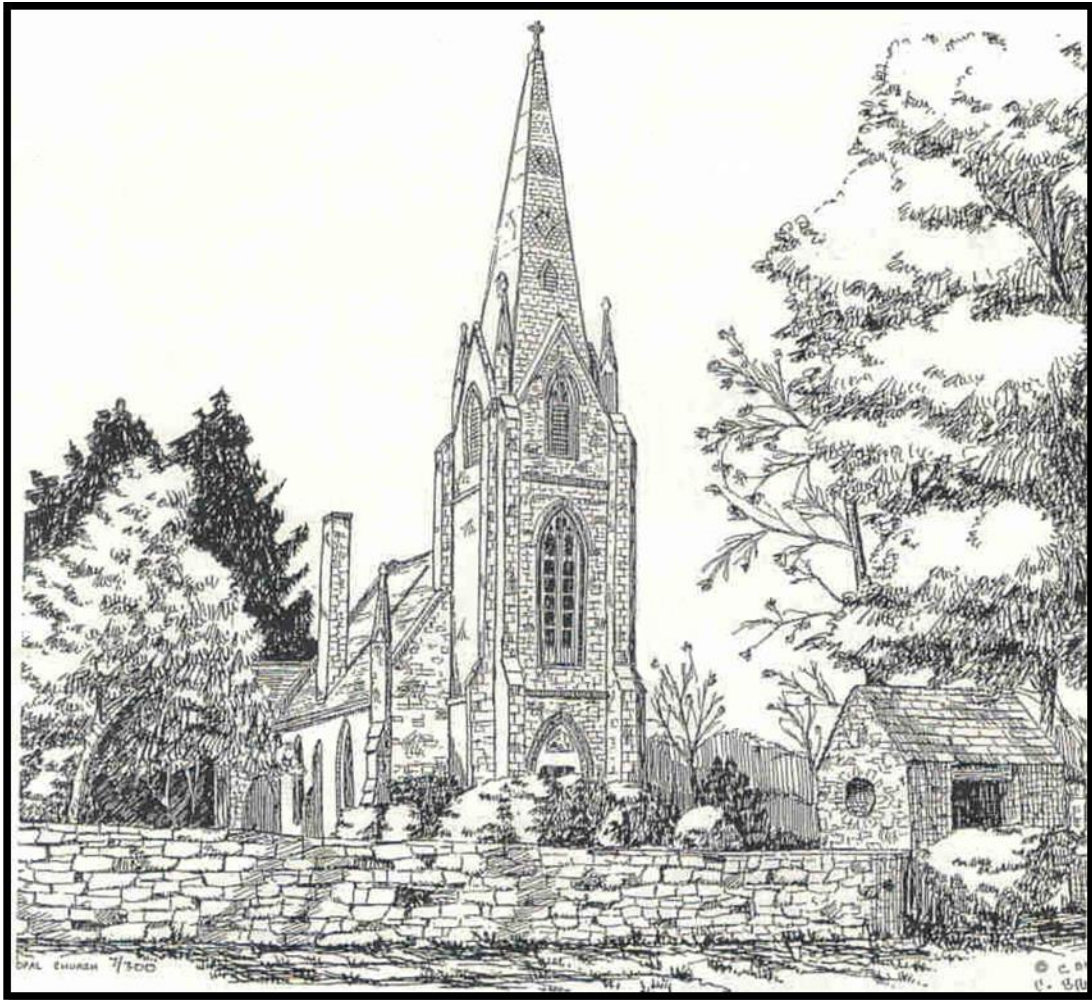


**WEDDINGS AT
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Western Run Parish
Reisterstown MD**



Wedding Guidelines

WEDDING GUIDELINES AT ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a Sacrament of the Christian Community. At St. John's it is expected that all persons wishing to be married will be active members of this Christian community, and will have demonstrated by their regular attendance at worship their intention to participate in the life of this parish. A period of regular attendance at St. John's Church for 3 to 6 months prior to setting a date for the wedding usually meets this requirement. **A wedding date and time will be finalized only after speaking with one of the clergy.** Rehearsal time and date must be set with the officiating clergy, in consultation with the Parish Administrator.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage at St. John's Church is performed in accordance with the *Book of Common Prayer (BCP)* of the Episcopal Church and must conform to the Marriage Rite as set forth therein. In accordance with the BCP, it is understood that Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between two people in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conforms to the laws of the State and canons of this Church.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All liturgical arrangements and questions concerning premarital counseling are made under the direction of the clergy. (See the Clergy Section of this Brochure for additional information)
- All musical arrangements are made under the direction of Dr. James M. Anthony, Organist, regardless of whether he will be playing for the wedding (see the Music Section of this Brochure for additional information). Arrangements with Dr. Anthony should be completed at least 1 month prior to the wedding.
- Weddings are not permitted during Lent.
- Weddings may be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. (Other days may be approved by the clergy.)
- A program listing the order of the service and the participants may be used. The bride and groom are responsible for the information contained therein, and must submit a final draft of the program to the Parish Administrator for clergy approval, preparation and duplication **at least three weeks in advance** of the wedding. Submission of the program for approval is required even if St. John's Church clergy will not be officiating. The program may be prepared by the staff at St. John's Church providing the format is compatible with our Savin Copier/Printer. Sample programs are attached.
- All provisions of the canons of the Episcopal Church must be met.

CLERGY AND PREMARITAL COUNSELING REQUIREMENTS

- A clergyperson from St. John's Church or another Episcopal clergyperson approved by the Rector officiates at the wedding. If the couple desires, a minister of another denomination may assist in the ceremony with the Rector's prior approval. If the Rector has approved an outside clergyperson to officiate or assist with wedding, the outside clergyperson needs to contact the Rector prior to the wedding to discuss liturgical requirements.
- All couples intending to be married at St. John's Church by a clergyperson from St. John's must attend a minimum of three premarital counseling sessions with the clergy or some other responsible party as designated by the Rector. Premarital counseling is sometimes referred to an outside counselor and a fee may be charged by the outside counselor.
- For persons previously married and divorced, the priest who will officiate at the wedding must obtain the permission of the Diocesan Bishop two months in advance of the wedding date. If one of the parties has been divorced more than once, there are special requirements. Also, normally one year must elapse since the final divorce decree has been granted.
- If a non-St. John's clergyperson has been approved to officiate at the wedding, that clergy person is responsible for obtaining all marital judgments from the Bishop, all premarital counseling sessions and preparation, and fulfilling all legal and canonical requirements (e.g., filling out and returning the wedding license, and properly completing the wedding register at St. John's Church.)

FLOWERS, ALTAR CANDLES & OTHER DECORATIONS

- The use of decorations in the church is under the direction of the Altar Guild, in consultation with the clergy. All altar flowers are to be real; artificial flowers are not permitted.
- Flowers must be provided by the couple being married. Specifications for the altar flowers are as follows: arrangements should not be higher than the cross: 20 inches or less - nor be more than 10" in depth (with back of arrangement flush with the back of the container as much as possible) and 18" wide.
- All altar flower arrangements, including those from an "outside florist" remain in the church for Sunday services. Flowers remain in thanksgiving for the marriage and proper acknowledgement will be made in St. John's Church Sunday bulletin.

- St. John's Church does not provide pew torches, pew bows or pew flowers. If you choose to use these items, you will need to rent or buy them. To avoid damage to the pews, tape, tack, wires or pins are not permitted.
- All liturgical practices must conform to the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP). Therefore, ceremonials not proscribed by the BCP – such as lighting of a Unity Candle – are not permitted at St. John's Church.
- Flower girls may toss only organic potpourri or petals from live flowers at St. John's Church.
- Aisle runners are not permitted inside of the church.

PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

- All photographers and videographers, if not previously introduced, are asked to check with the Officiant one hour prior to the service.
- Flash photography and artificial lighting are not permitted in church during the ceremony. Pictures or videos taken in available light are permissible from the back of the church or in the choir loft. *Photographic equipment must be in place at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the service. Because the marriage ceremony is worship, guests should be requested in advance not to take pictures in church during the liturgy.*
- If you want photographs taken before the wedding ceremony, please schedule a time for pictures with the Parish Administrator. We cannot guarantee that the church will be available for pictures prior to your wedding unless you have a scheduled time with the Parish Administrator.
- Following the ceremony, photographs may be taken in St. John's Church or on our grounds for a period not to exceed **thirty minutes**.

MUSIC

- Contact Dr. James Anthony, Organist, directly to discuss music for your ceremony, including the use of vocalists and instrumentalists, all of which will be under his direction. Jim can be contacted at 443-622-4922 (mobile) or email: janthony@towson.edu.
- The Organist of St. John's Church coordinates the music for all weddings held here. All outside musicians must coordinate with the Organist. The Organist approves the use of all music in the ceremony.

WEDDING REHEARSAL GUIDELINES

- Please bring: (1) a valid Baltimore County marriage license, and (2) all your wedding programs.
- Please make sure that all of your attendants, readers, and others participating in your wedding are present. A rehearsal normally takes approximately 1 hour from the time that it actually begins.

YOUR WEDDING DAY

- The bride and her attendants should **arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior** to the start of the ceremony. If she and/or her attendants will dress in St. John's Parish House, all should arrive a **minimum of 1 hour prior** to the start of the ceremony. In either case, the bride and her attendants shall gather in the Library, located in St. John's Parish House.
- The Groom and Best Man should arrive 45 minutes prior to the ceremony
- If the Groomsmen are serving as Ushers, they should arrive **a minimum of 1 hour prior** to the start of the ceremony in order to distribute wedding programs and escort guests to their seats.
- Only live flower petals and organic potpourri may be used to shower the couple as they leave the church.

RECEPTIONS AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

- When a reception is held at St. John's Church, we ask that all pre-arrangements and set-up of the Parish Hall take place on the preceding day. Tents may be left up until the following Monday morning. Catering supplies and equipment are to be stored outside after the reception and properly covered. The Parish Hall closes at 10 p.m. in order to prepare for Sunday morning worship, so please plan accordingly. **While St. John's Church welcomes receptions, please keep in mind that we are not a commercial facility, and have limited resources.**
- If the Parish Hall is used for your post-ceremony reception, a list of suggested caterers and tent companies is available from the Parish Administrator.

WEDDING PAYMENT CHECKLIST

Name of Bride/Groom _____ Date of Wedding _____

The following payments are due to St. John's Church at least 2 weeks prior to the wedding date:

Use of St. John's Church		Amount Due
Member	No Charge	
Non-Member	\$ 300.00	\$ _____
Use of Library for Dressing	25.00	\$ _____
Overflow – Need for Tent/Chairs/Speakers (Rented by couple)		
Use of Parish Hall for Reception		
Member	\$ 375.00	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$ 750.00	\$ _____

(If catering set-up and decorating takes place during regular office hours, there is no charge. If set-up takes place more than 1-1/2 hrs. before the ceremony, there is a fee of: \$50.00)

\$ _____
TOTAL (PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH) \$ _____

Organist

Coordination of Music and Performing at Rehearsal/Wedding
\$ 200.00 \$ _____

When rehearsal is required with instrumentalists or soloists, an additional fee of
\$ _____ may be charged. \$ _____

TOTAL (PAYABLE TO JAMES M. ANTHONY) \$ _____

Soloist(s) obtained through Organist Amt. to be determined \$ _____

Make check payable to: the individual musician

When rehearsal is required with instrumentalists or soloists, an additional fee of
\$ _____ may be charged. \$ _____

TOTAL (PAYABLE TO INDIVIDUAL MUSICIAN) \$ _____

Clergy

It is customary for couples to make a contribution to the Rector's (or Assistant Rector's) Discretionary Fund. Gifts to the clergy are at the discretion of the couple and may be made out to **St. John's Church** with "Discretionary Fund" on memo line.

Please return this form, the Wedding Ceremony Reservation form and the Wedding Processional form (pages 6, 7, and 8) at least one month prior to your Wedding.

WEDDING PROGRAM CHECKLIST

Music

Prelude _____

The Processional _____

Hymns _____

Solos _____

Interlude Music _____

Recessional _____

Postlude _____

The Ministry of the Word

Listed below are the suggested readings for Weddings. If the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, a Gospel Lesson is required as the final reading. If there is no Eucharist, at least one Lesson from Holy Scripture is required.

The most frequently used version of the bible is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Please check those readings you wish to use.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS (always the First Reading)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1:26-28 | "Male and female he created them" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2:18-21 | "They become one body" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-69 | "Isaac and Rebekah get married" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth 1:16-17 | "Wherever you go, I will go" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16 | "Love is as strong as death" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Song of Songs 2:10-14, 16 | "Arise my love, my fair one" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 61:10-11 | "...a bride adorns herself with jewels..." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 3:31-34 | "I will make a new covenant" |

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn or anthem may be sung or said.
Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127 and 128.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS (Second Lesson)

<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	"If God is for us, who can be against"
<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	"Let Love be genuine"
<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 3:14-21	"Rooted and grounded in love..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:2, 21-33	"Husbands love your wives..."
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20	"Glorify God in your body"
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8	"Love is..."
<input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 3:12-17	"Put on love"
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:18-24	"Love one another"
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:7-12	"Love one another"
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 3:1-9	"Wives be submissive to your husbands"
<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 19:1, 5-9	"The marriage supper of the lamb"

GOSPEL READINGS

<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:1-12	"The Beatitudes"
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:13-16	"The Salt of the Earth"
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 7:21, 24-29	"The house build on rock"
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 19:3-6	"The two shall become one flesh"
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 22:35-40	"Love your neighbor as yourself"
<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25:31-46	"Separating the sheep from the goats"
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:6-9	"What God has joined together let no put asunder."
<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:25-37	"The Good Samaritan"
<input type="checkbox"/> John 2:1-11	"Marriage feast of Cana"
<input type="checkbox"/> John 15:9-12	"Abide in my love"
<input type="checkbox"/> John 15:12-16	"Love one another"
<input type="checkbox"/> John 17:20-26	"...that they may all be one"

An example of a Wedding program format is attached.

Celebrant The Rev. Tracy A. Bruce

Organist Dr. James M. Anthony

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Matron of Honor

Bride's Attendants

Best Man

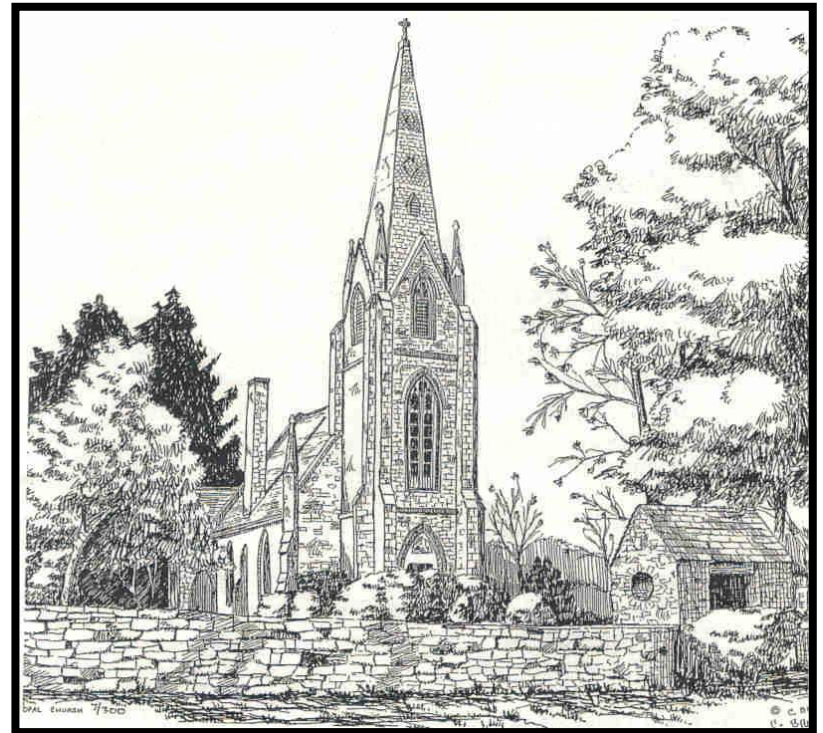
Groom's Attendants

Readers

St. John's Church

Western Run Parish

Reisterstown, MD



The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of (Sample Program with Holy Communion)

The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of

Prelude

Processional

Opening Exhortation Book of Common Prayer page 423

Declaration of Consent page 424

Hymn

The Ministry of the Word (*congregation is seated*)

Collect

Old Testament Lesson:

Psalm

New Testament Lesson:

Gospel:

Homily

The Rev. Tracy A. Bruce

Hymn

The Marriage page 427

Vows

Blessing of the Rings

Exchange of the Rings

The Prayers (*all stand*) page 428

Lord's Prayer

Petitions

Blessing of the Marriage page 430

Peace page 431

Offertory

Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, Prayer 2 page 340

Sursum Corda

Consecration

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion Hymn

Postcommunion Prayer page 432

Blessing (*all stand*)

Recessional

Postlude:

Celebrant The Rev. Tracy A. Bruce

Organist Dr. James M. Anthony

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Matron of Honor

Bride's Attendants

Best Man

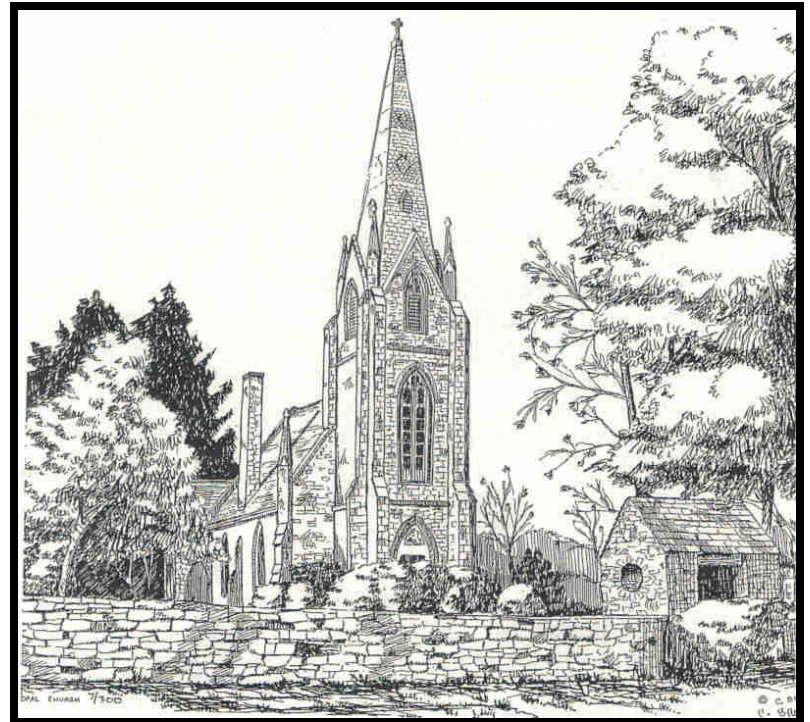
Groom's Attendants

Readers

St. John's Church

Western Run Parish

Reisterstown, MD



The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of

(Sample Program without Holy Communion)

The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of

Prelude		The Marriage	page 427
		Vows	
		Blessing of the Rings	
		Exchange of the Rings	
Processional		Prayers (<i>all stand</i>)	page 428
		Lord's Prayer	
		Petitions	
Opening Exhortation	Book of Common Prayer		
	page 423		
Declaration of Consent		The Blessing of the Marriage	page 430
	page 424		
Hymn		Peace	page 431
The Ministry of the Word (<i>congregation is seated</i>)		Recessional	
Collect			
First Reading:		Postlude:	
Second Reading:			
Homily	The Rev. Tracy A. Bruce		