



# ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Policy on Weddings for Members

Dear Members of the All Saints Family,

Congratulations on your engagement! We are delighted that you have chosen your parish home to take part in the beginning of your married life through the Rite of Matrimony. We understand that it is a time filled with anticipation and a tremendous amount of anxiety. It is our intention to help you through this process in a very practical way, to ensure that the preparation and ceremony proceed as smoothly as possible and maintain the sacramental nature of the event.

Marriage is an expression by two people who love each other and intend to commit their lives to one another in the bonds of holy matrimony. Christian marriage is a sacrament, which means that it is an outward sign of an inward and spiritual grace; that is to say, the outward sign of the love of two people as expressed through the exchange of vows and the giving of rings is sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit into a bond of unity and love. When this is done in the presence of family and friends, the community gathered also makes a promise to support the commitment that the two persons have made. Therefore, marriage should not be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but with full understanding of the expectations that follow.

Weddings at All Saints must be scheduled at least three (3) months in advance, no exceptions. All Saints follows the ancient liturgical cycle of the Church, and so weddings are not performed during the penitential season of Lent (early spring, between Ash Wednesday and Easter). The couple must meet with the priest for three (3) premarital counseling sessions prior to the wedding. These sessions may include the completion of relationship assessment tools, and in certain cases, the couple may be asked to seek the counsel of a non-clergy marriage professional. Wedding planning is also discussed at these sessions.

Weddings at All Saints Church are performed solely according to the rites authorized for use in The Episcopal Church, namely the “Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage” found in the *Book of Common Prayer 1979* and the revised rites found in the supplemental resource, *I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing*, approved by the 2015 General Convention. Each rite offers appropriate choices of readings and prayers. Personalized vows may be used, but must be approved by the priest in advance. Hymns and other music may also be discussed with the priest. Minor changes may be done to the liturgy to allow more inclusive or egalitarian language; however, changes intended to diminish the sacramental or Christian nature of the marriage rite will not be allowed (e.g., omission of The Lord’s Prayer). It is our preference that ceremonies performed in the church will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion; there is no greater gift to honor the statement of love between the newly married couple than with a celebration of the Eucharist—the great service of thanksgiving for the love God has for the world. In The Episcopal Church, it is our custom to invite all baptized Christians to receive the Blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ in the forms of bread and wine. Non-Christians and those wishing not to partake of the sacrament are invited to receive a blessing from the priest.

The fees for weddings at All Saints Church are described on the following page. All fees are paid in cash. The wedding party is expected to arrive early, so that the wedding ceremony may begin on time. A grace period of twenty (20) minutes is offered to allow for unexpected traffic and parking difficulties. After that time, a late fee will be charged **separately** for the Rector, Organist, and Cleaning Crew, and the refundable deposit will be forfeited. If the parties are not prepared to begin or have not arrived after 45 minutes, the wedding will be cancelled, late fees will be charged, and **no** payments will be refunded.

Regarding photography, All Saints Church has a strict ban on photography and videotaping during the mass. Photos may be taken before and after. Professional photographers will be allowed to set up camera or video equipment on a stationary tripod in the back of the church, and remote control devices may be used. Photographers must meet with the Rector at least one (1) week in advance regarding photography and to look at the space.

May God’s peace and blessings remain with you during this exciting time.

*All Saints is a catholic parish of the Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion in the Diocese of Long Island.*

Fee Schedule  
(paid in cash)

Facilities Use (includes a refundable deposit of \$200, which will be returned, if the wedding begins on time)	\$825
Premarital Counseling Fee*	450
Organist's Fee	250
Rehearsal Fee	50
Fee for Cleaning Crew (after the wedding)	150
Late fee (for the priest, organist, and cleaning crew, separately) (charged after 20 minutes)	150

The fees are expected in total by the day of the wedding rehearsal, but periodic deposits may be made in advance.

\*The premarital counseling fee (or portion thereof) may be waived if the couple chooses to seek professional marriage counseling, or if it is recommended by the priest. A formal report must be received from the independent counselor before the wedding will be approved.