



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Policy on Weddings for Non-members using their own Officiant

Dear Friends,

We wish to express our deepest gratitude that you are considering or have chosen All Saints Church for your upcoming wedding ceremony. 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.

It is expected that weddings at All Saints be scheduled at least three (3) months in advance. 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 arrange premarital counseling sessions with the officiant prior to the wedding. The number and content of premarital counseling sessions as well as required fees shall be determined by the officiant.

Permission to use All Saints as a wedding venue is granted solely by the Rector. Weddings at All Saints Church are normally performed 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. At the discretion of the Rector, officiants from other Christian denominations may be permitted to perform weddings at All Saints, using the rites from their respective traditions. The officiant must be ordained or licensed in the professed denomination and provide documentation to the Rector. However, if Holy Communion is desired, the celebrant must be the Rector, an Episcopal priest, or minister in a church that is in full communion with The Episcopal Church. At the current time, the use of All Saints' sacred space for weddings shall be limited to services using Christian rites of holy matrimony, and at least one of the two individuals being married must be a baptized Christian.

The fees for weddings are described on the next page. All fees are paid in cash. This amount covers the use of the space on the wedding day. Fees for the officiant's services shall be negotiated between the officiant and the couple. If music is desired, the organist who serves at All Saints is available with advance notice; the fee for the organist is \$250 for the service and \$50 for a prior rehearsal, paid in cash directly to the organist. Music for the wedding will be chosen in consultation with the organist. If the couple chooses to use their own musician(s), this must be discussed with the Rector at least three (3) months in advance. A late fee will be charged for the Organist and Cleaning Crew after 20 minutes from the scheduled start time.

Permissions and limitations regarding photography before, during, and after the ceremony shall be negotiated with the officiant performing the ceremony and discussed with the Rector in advance. It is expected that All Saints' most sacred spaces (the chancel, the altar, and the tabernacle) will be given utmost reverence and respect.

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

Fr. Norman Whitmire, Jr.
Rector

Fee Schedule
(paid in cash)

Facilities Use	\$1,500
Organist's Fee	250
Rehearsal Fee	50
Late fee	150
(charged after 20 minutes from scheduled start time)	
Fee for Cleaning Crew (after the wedding)	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.