

*A Guide to
Your Wedding at
St. John Chrysostom
Episcopal Church*

30382 Via Con Dios

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-1518

Church: [949] 888-4595 ✕ Fax: [949] 858-1498 ✕ School: [949] 858-5144

*Many waters
cannot quench love;
neither can floods
drown it.”*

Song of Solomon 8:7a

[Revised 05.19.08]

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in the Church

In the Episcopal Church, the Sacrament of Marriage is one of the most important steps in human life. May God bless both of you in your journey as you plan a wedding day worthy of your commitment to one another.

The following is written to assist you with your plans to be married at St. John Chrysostom Church and are in accord with the customs of the Episcopal Church and this congregation.

Who May Be Married in the Episcopal Church?

At least one party in the marriage must be a baptized Christian. If you have been previously married, the Priest who is counseling you must obtain permission from the Bishop of the Diocese to perform the marriage. You will be asked to present copies of all final divorce or annulment decrees. A twice-divorced person who wishes to be remarried in the Church must consult with the Priest and meet criteria of the Diocese.

Must We Be Members of St. John's Church?

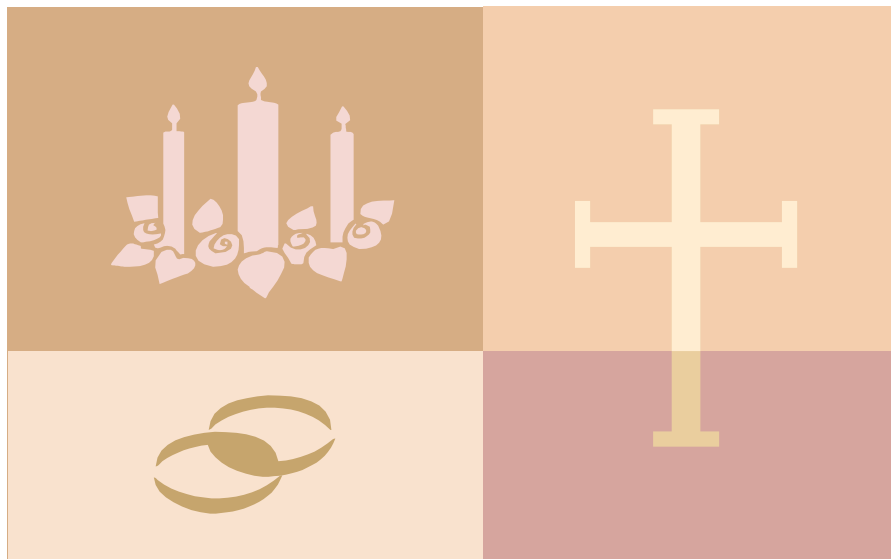
No, but a shared faith is enriching to your marriage. If you do not have a Church home, we at St. John's invite you to worship with us.

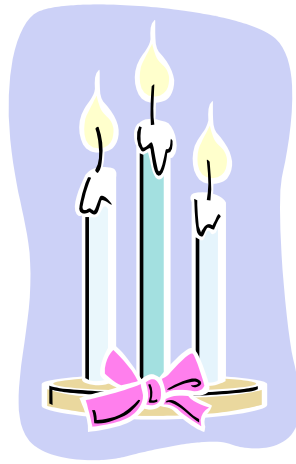
Getting Started

Your initial contact will be with a member of the clergy, who will guide your further arrangements. Your desired date of availability will be checked and confirmed as soon as possible. To contact one of the clergy, please call the church administrator at [949] 888-4595, x206.

Please keep in mind that weddings are not performed from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday and that scheduled church activities always take precedence. Weddings are normally scheduled for Saturdays, with the rehearsal taking place on the prior evening.

The first priority of available dates will be given to active St. John's Church members; however, members may not preempt a date that has been confirmed.





Next Steps in Planning Your Special Day

The Episcopal Church requires that you participate in premarital counseling, which should be scheduled as far in advance of the wedding as possible. You will arrange for your counseling sessions with the clergy.

St. John's often uses "Prepare and Enrich," a computer-scored self-assessment that leads to counseling with the couple. A \$35.00 fee will be collected at the first counseling session to score the assessment.

During counseling sessions, the Clergy will discuss with you a number of topics, including conflict resolution, financial responsibility, relationships with your extended family, and the nature of Christian marriage and its ministry and how they are expressed in the marriage ceremony.

A Declaration of Intention to enter into a Christian marriage must be signed, under oath. In it, you state that you hold marriage to be a life-long union.

Guest Clergy

Clergy from other churches or denominations may be part of the ceremony by permission of the Vicar. Clerical etiquette requires that guest clergy not be invited prior to a written invitation issued by the Vicar.

St. John's reserves the right to decide who will preside at the service.

The honorarium for the guest clergy should be paid directly to the clergy person by the bride or groom.

Marriage License

The legal license for the marriage issued in the State of California must be obtained and brought to the rehearsal. After the ceremony, St. John's will mail the license to the County Recorder.

Music

The selection and performance of all music will be under the supervision of St. John's Music Director. Your wedding fee will include these services. If you so desire, additional soloists or instrumentalists may perform under his direction, and their fees will be your separate responsibility. The Music Director will give final approval for all music.



The Wedding Guild Director

Only St. John's Wedding Guild Director will assist you in all the church-related details of the wedding with the exception of the liturgy and counseling by the clergy.

She will schedule your rehearsal, normally the evening prior to the wedding, and will be present at that time. She and her assistants will be present on the day of the ceremony to assist you with details such as greeting the photographer, supervising the distribution of the flowers, supervising the seating of family members, and other matters.

St. John's provides a Bride's Room for the bride and her attendants as well as a room for the groom and his attendants for dressing for the wedding.

The Wedding Guild Director will arrange for a meeting with the church Floral Director and the Music Director.



Flowers and Other Decorations

Floral arrangements and decorations will be supervised by our church's Floral Director who will be happy to work with you in choosing the appropriate arrangements. She will be able to advise you on prices for the flowers you desire, the cost of which will be your responsibility.

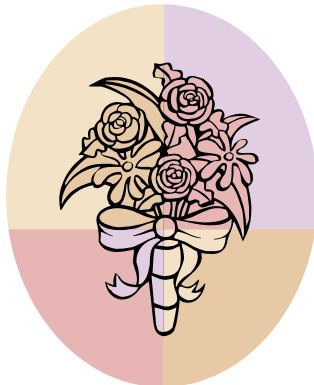
The floral arrangements in the church must be created by the church's Floral Director. Flowers placed inside the altar rail will remain in the church following the ceremony. All other flowers are available for your use after the service.

If you wish to use an outside florist for your personal flowers (bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres, etc.) the church's Floral Director will provide you with a list of referrals upon request.

The use of any aisle runner is not permitted.

No rice, birdseed, confetti, bubbles, etc. are to be used on church property.

St. John's will provide aisle candles for the ceremony, if desired, at an extra fee of \$200.00.





Photographs

Please provide the Wedding Guild Director with the name, address and phone number of your photographer and videographer, if being used.

In order to maintain the sanctity of the service, pictures may be taken only by the professional photographer and videographer during the ceremony. No flash photography is permitted during the ceremony. The clergy will direct the still photographer as to available positions and limitations on movement.

Videotaping may be done from the transepts and/or the balcony only, with the camera(s) in fixed position (s).

We allow 45 minutes for photography in the church following the ceremony.

Please refer to separate guidelines for your photographer and videographer prior to the wedding date.

The Ceremony

The Wedding Guild Director, her assistants, and the Altar Guild will prepare the sanctuary for the service and are responsible for returning it to its customary form afterwards.

The Book of Common Prayer is used for the wedding ceremony; however, we do allow variations. If you wish to compose part of your service, this is possible, with the permission and assistance of the Vicar. However, no changes to the wording of the vows or declaration of consent are permitted.

St. John's allows no props or costumes to be used during the Ceremony.

Any program or "order of service" bulletin will be the responsibility of the bride and groom, the content and format of which must be approved by the Priest at least two weeks prior to your ceremony.

You may have a maximum of five attendants each for the bride and groom, including children, who may serve in the wedding party at the discretion of the presiding Priest. If you plan to have a Ring Bearer in the wedding party, a pillow with symbolic rings may be used, but the actual rings must be in the possession of an adult.

On the day of the wedding, the ushers need to be at the church and ready to seat guests one hour before the service.

The bride will arrange an arrival time with the Wedding Guild Director.

The signing of the Parish Register will take place immediately following the ceremony.

Please arrange to have someone remove all personal items from the dressing rooms within 30 minutes after completion of the ceremony.

It is inappropriate for anyone to come to the rehearsal or wedding ceremony under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and it is the responsibility of the bride and groom to ensure that this does not happen. No smoking is allowed anywhere on church property.

Please discuss guest parking with the Wedding Guild Director.



Fees

When you have determined that your desired date is available, a deposit of 25% will be required which will be applied to your total fee. *Please note that your date will not be confirmed on the church calendar until the deposit is received.* The remaining balance will be due 45 days prior to the wedding date. If the wedding is cancelled up to 90 days prior to the ceremony, 50% of your deposit will be returned. If the wedding is cancelled less than 60 days prior to the ceremony, your deposit will not be refunded.

The basic fee includes the use of the church for the rehearsal and ceremony and facilities for dressing for the bride and groom and their attendants. This fee also includes compensation for the Music Director, the Wedding Guild Director and her assistants, the Altar Guild, one acolyte, the sound technician, and the custodial staff.

This fee also includes altar candles, Unity Candle and bridal kneeler. A table for gifts and the guest book (provided by the bride) will also be available if desired.

The clergy do not charge for performing wedding ceremonies. However, wedding participants, member and non-member, traditionally express their gratitude with an honorarium of \$200 given to the presiding Priest during counseling. This is then donated to the Priest's Discretionary Fund.

Basic Fees

<u>Members:</u> (Active Church members, current school faculty and staff, current school families in good standing.)	\$ 1,040.00
<u>SJES Alumni:</u> (Former school families in good standing)	\$ 1,300.00
<u>Non-Members:</u>	\$ 1,775.00

*Additional Required Fees**

Prepare and Enrich Premarital Inventory	\$ 35.00
Clergy Honorarium	\$ 200.00

*Please be aware that these fees do not reflect the cost of flowers or additional musicians.

Additional Fees for Optional Choices

Additional Acolyte	\$ 25.00
Aisle Candles	\$ 200.00
Additional Musicians	Variable depending upon choice*
Flowers	Variable depending upon choice

*Fees for organist's rehearsal with guest musician(s) will be negotiated with and paid directly to the organist.

*Total fees are due 45 days
prior to the date of the wedding.*

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Rev. Canon John H. Taylor
Vicar
[949] 888-4568

Jan Arndt
Wedding Guild Director
[949] 855-6051

*“And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three;
and the greatest of these is love.”*

1 Corinthians 13: 13

WEEKLY WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Wednesdays at noon: Prayers for Healing and Holy Eucharist
Saturdays at 5 p.m.: Holy Eucharist
Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist