

WEDDINGS AT ST. AUGUSTINES

It is a joy to be planning a wedding service. This information should help you decide if St. Augustine's might be the right choice for your wedding. If you have further questions please call the church at (401) 874-2739 to schedule an interview with the Priest-in-charge.

ENGAGING THE USE OF OUR BUILDING FOR A CEREMONY YOU HAVE ALREADY PLANNED

Can we rent the Church and/or hall and have our own clergy or Justice of the Peace officiate?

The church delights to extend hospitality to those who seek it. If the buildings are available on the date you request, they may be made rented with the approval of the Priest-in-charge. A list of facilities and fees is available at the end of this document. If you have questions don't hesitate to call the parish office at (401) 783-2153 (also fax) or 874-2739.

HIRING OUR MUSICIAN OR BRINGING ONE OF YOUR OWN?

For those wishing to use the piano or organ at St. Augustine's, it is necessary first to confer with the parish Minister of Music. The Minister of Music may be available to play for your wedding and/or to consult with you about choice of music; this needs to be arranged with him/her at least 60 days in advance. If a guest musician uses the parish instruments, it is a courtesy for that person to confer with the Minister of Music and the couple is responsible for paying a bench fee to him/her.

Musician Fees:

- A. For use of organ and/or piano by your own musician in sanctuary and necessary consultation with St. Augustine's church musician. \$100.
- B. For our church musician to play at your worship service, if available, \$200. If (s)he is not available, (s)he will help you find another musician if needed.

ENGAGING THE CLERGY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S TO PLAN FOR AND OFFICIATE AT YOUR WEDDING

Married in Church?

The reason for being married in a church is:

- You wish to make your vows before God
- You are inviting God's blessing on your marriage
- You wish as a married couple to have the support that comes through involvement in a Christian community of faith.

Married in the Episcopal Church?

The Episcopal Church recognizes and affirms the sanctity of marriage for opposite and same sex couples. If one or both of the couple are Episcopalians, marriage in an Episcopal Church supports your marital relationship in the community to which you belong. Occasionally, when a couple or extended family belong to different churches or live in different areas, a church other than one's parish might be the best fit! If you are looking for a new denomination and considering the Episcopal church, come and worship with us few times, and talk with the Priest-in-charge about your desire to be married at St. Augustine's.

Married by the Clergy of St. Augustine's?

The Priest-in-charge of St. Augustine's is glad to officiate for couples when at least one partner has been a communicant member of the parish for at least the preceding six months. For situations of pastoral need, sometimes children of parishioners who are not yet settled in a parish elsewhere may return to the parish of their family to be married. For Episcopal students of the University of Rhode Island, weddings at St. Augustine's may be arranged in consultation with one's home clergy.

Pre-marital preparation

The Episcopal Church anticipates that there will be pre-marriage preparation with the clergy. The Priest-in-charge will meet with the couple not less than four times for discernment and planning. These sessions cover a variety of issues facing those considering marriage and are informal, can be fun, and involve some homework between sessions.

When can we set the date?

While you may have a month in mind, do not set the date of your wedding until you have met with the Priest-in-charge to schedule the service. The preparation process involves real openness and discernment about the decision to marry for all concerned. It is disappointing and expensive to book your reception site and make your plans only to find that the Priest-in-charge is not available on that date.

Is this a second marriage for either of you?

The rules of the Episcopal Church require the permission of the Diocesan Bishop for the second marriage of one or both partners after divorce. This process takes at least 60 days. A copy of your final divorce decree will be needed, and the divorced person will be asked to write a letter about the causes of the divorce, the healing done since, and the reason the second marriage might be expected to succeed. The Priest-in-charge will be glad to support you through this process.

Can we be married on a Sunday morning?

A marriage service in the context of the Sunday Eucharist is a wonderful option. The Priest-in-charge will be delighted to discuss this possibility with you. Traditionally, church weddings are not held at any time during the season of Lent.

A SCHEDULE OF FEES

Here is some information you may need if you are planning to be married at St. Augustine's:

Personnel

Sexton fee: for furniture change of set up, clean up, trash removal. \$50 - Or you may do your own.

Administrative fee: if you need the parish office to take messages, receive flowers or admit caterers outside 9-1 office hours. \$50.

Engaging St. Augustine's clergy: It is customary to make a donation to the parish discretionary fund for emergency assistance to the poor, in an amount similar to that for the musician.

Facilities

The Sanctuary: post-and-beam room seats up to 160 in moveable chairs and side benches. It may be used for purposes compatible with its religious purpose. Wheelchair accessible. Rental Fee: \$500 per 3 hours (includes wedding with rehearsal) altar guild: (for church linens, if you need others than those currently in place, and for vessels, wine & wafers, etc. for Communion) \$50

Canterbury Hall: seats up to 170 in folding chairs (and tables seating about 8). It is not easily wheelchair accessible, though access, with assistance, may be possible. Rental fee: \$200 per 3 hours

Kitchen: a full commercial kitchen with dishwasher, dishes and silverware, pots and pans. Rental Fee: \$75 per 3 hours

Grounds: Attractive sloping lawn with brook, garden, and ornamental trees. Small parking lot and street parking as available.

Bathrooms (one upstairs fully accessible, two downstairs, may be used regardless of rooms rented.)

If these fees constitute a hardship for you, please speak with the Rector, as we are willing to be flexible.

SCHEDULING

Please reserve space at least 60 days in advance through the parish office. Religious services must be scheduled with the approval of the Priest-in-charge. The office needs to know if and when supplies will be arriving or when admittance to the buildings will be needed. We will do our best to make you welcome and help your event run smoothly.