

SAINT ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

82 SHORE ROAD • OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371 • (860) 434-1621

Congratulations on your decision to be joined together in the covenant of marriage. This is an exciting time in your life and we are delighted that you are seeking a church in which to celebrate your commitment to each other in the name of Jesus Christ. There are few steps in life that are as important or as full of promise; and there are few steps that require as much work and continual attention. The Sacrament of Marriage and the liturgy within which it is initiated have been part of the Christian heritage for centuries, and both stand as a sign and symbol of the fullness of the promises you will make and the relationship you will mutually nurture from this time forward. We recommend that you give serious and particular thought to the service, the liturgy, and to all its incumbent details. To help with some of your questions, below are listed standard policies and information that should be helpful.

HOLY MATRIMONY IN THE CHURCH

Jesus welcomed all, as do we--those who attend worship with us, and those who choose to join us for a wedding and discern more about God's love which encompasses all of God's people, despite creed, nationality, or background. You are most welcome! We do encourage those who desire to be married with us to join us for worship when they are able.

In Holy Matrimony, a couple enters into a life-long union of heart, body and mind that is intended by God "for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord." The Church therefore expects that everyone who desires to be married look upon their union as being life-long.

The ministers of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony are those who exchange the vows and the promises to each other. The priest's function at a marriage ceremony is to give the Church's blessing at the end of the rite and, along with the congregation present, to witness the exchange of those vows. In order to give such a blessing in the name of the Church, the priest must be assured that a Christian marriage is intended by the two people being married. It is the priest's task to instruct the couple on the meaning of Christian marriage, to counsel with them, and to discuss whatever they may wish prior to their decision that they intend and desire to have a Christian marriage.

It is not our intent to perform marriages indiscriminately. As members of the Episcopal Church, we abide by our Church's teaching on Holy Matrimony. Therefore, some guidelines need to be addressed and discussed before plans are made for a marriage to be performed at Saint Ann's Church in Old Lyme.

The Episcopal Church has explicit marriage canons.

A minimum of thirty day's notice is necessary before a marriage, so that there is sufficient time for pre-marital instruction and counseling.

It is not necessary for both parties to be members of the Episcopal Church, but the Episcopal Church does require that one of the persons to be married shall have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Weddings should take place in the Church building before God's altar.

In the case of remarriage, evidence must be presented that the former marriage has been legally dissolved. The clergy person who is asked to solemnize such a marriage must consult with and obtain the consent of the Bishop and must report to the Bishop after the marriage ceremony has taken place. It is advisable to plan a remarriage at least six months prior to the date so that there may be proper time for counseling and approval by the Bishop.

A clergy person in the Episcopal Church has the right to decline to solemnize any marriage.

After thoroughly reading this paper on Holy Matrimony, if you think you would like to be married at Saint Ann's Church, please introduce yourselves after Sunday service or call for an appointment to meet with the Rector. We do ask, in order for us to be able to plan weddings as best as possible, that you return the enclosed information sheet for our records, as well as a \$250 non-refundable deposit.

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License: You will need a marriage license from the Town of Old Lyme. When you have procured a license you may bring it to the Church office. We will secure it in a safe place, and this relieves you of having one more detail the day of the wedding. As a matter of law, if the license is not present, the service can not be done.

Pre-Marital Counseling

Often individuals approach pre-marital counseling with great fear and trepidation. Please don't! The five sessions are intended to be helpful. Marriage holds the promise of great joy, but there are many obstacles to having a successful lifelong relationship. Normally, you should plan on each session lasting about an hour and a half. During these sessions, expect to discuss how you met and fell in love; family and friends; the nature of your relationship; your hopes and expectations; how you use your time together and apart; your future together, including children; finances and employment; and your wedding plans. These counseling sessions should take place over a six to eight month period and should be scheduled through the Parish Administrator. Evening appointments are sometimes available depending upon the church's schedule. For couples from out of state, some appointments can be made on Sundays.

Church: For regular pledging members of the congregation who by their pledge support the broad ministries of the parish, including the keeping and repair of buildings and grounds, there is no fee for the use of the church building. This applies to those who have made and honored pledges within the past two years, at or above the level set for building fees. However, any donation given in thanksgiving would be welcomed by the parish; as Saint Ann's will be the space within which you will begin a new life, its maintenance and preservation may be increasingly important to you as time goes on.

Those who are not pledging members of Saint Ann's are asked to make a donation of \$1,500 for church use, \$175 for parish hall use and \$50 for bulletin preparation if the church office prepares them.

Clergy: The clergy are most happy to be a minister to those seeking marriage, and they are available for any concerns which a couple may have. Because of the time involved in personal counseling, making arrangements, rehearsals, etc. a fee of \$500 is asked. This fee is not personally accepted but is allocated to the support of church ministries determined by the Rector.

Music: Music is normally supplied by the organist of the parish, Stephen Gamboa-Diaz. He may be contacted directly after the 10:30 am Sunday service. All music, even if provided by someone other than the parish organist, is under his direction and must be appropriate to a sacred liturgy (at the priest's discretion). The clergy and organist maintain the right to refuse any piece deemed inappropriate. The fee for the services of the organist, which includes one appointed consultation and the service, is \$250. If you desire the organist to be present at the rehearsal, an additional fee of \$50 is asked. Stephen's email is: music@saintannsoldlyme.org

If you hire your own organist, with permission of the Parish Organist and Rector, the fee for the parish organist will still be applied.

See additional addendum sheets for more information regarding music guidelines.

Altar Guild: Altar Guild members assist in much of the detail work necessary for weddings. It is recommended that you contact the office with questions regarding Altar Guild duties.

Flowers: Flowers may be ordered from any florist. However, it is recommended that all arrangements are made with the approval of the Altar Guild. We ask that the one altar spray remain at the church after the service. As part of our ministry, we bring these arrangements to members who are sick or shut in.

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Throwing: Without specific permission, the throwing of flower petals, rice, bird seed, etc. is prohibited as we generally do not have a cleaning crew available.

Photos: Because the wedding service is an act of religious worship, no pictures with flash are allowed to be taken during the actual service. You're welcome to take pictures prior to or after the service. All persons contracted as photographers should call the Rector at least two weeks prior to the service.

Videos: If you would like to have your wedding videotaped, the videographer must contact the Rector at least two weeks prior to the service. We have very set rules on what may be done, and these must be communicated.

A note on being late. . . .

Some people still think it fashionable to show up late for rehearsals and weddings. However, your lateness disrupts the schedules of many others, including our staff. We do our best to have all things ready for your wedding; we ask that you do your best to be on time for us.

Suggested

Payment: Check should be made out to Saint Ann's Church and delivered to the office one month prior to the service.*

\$1,500	Saint Ann's Church - Building Use (Not applicable to pledging members - see previous page <i>Church</i>)
\$175	Griswold Room - Parish Hall - if used (Not applicable to pledging members - see previous page <i>Church</i>)
\$500 -\$250	Saint Ann's Episcopal Church - Rector's Discretionary Fund/Counseling <i>Deposit sent with Information Sheet</i> (Rector's Fee not applicable to pledging members)
\$250	Organist
\$50	Altar Guild
\$50	Sexton's Fee
\$50	Administrative (Bulletin Preparation, if applicable)

*Please note that it is important to us that you be married in our Church, and, if you at the current time are unable to meet our financial recommendation for payment, that you contact the Rector to discuss your situation.

Visit us on the web at www.saintannsoldlyme.org

Saint Ann's Episcopal Church

Wedding Information Sheet

Groom's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Nickname: _____ Baptized Confirmed Communicant

Home Address: _____

Phone: home _____ cell _____

email: _____ Employer _____

Single Widower _____ Divorced _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Best Man: _____ How many ushers? _____

Residence after marriage: _____

Bride's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Nickname: _____ Baptized Confirmed Communicant

Home Address: _____

Phone: home _____ cell _____

email: _____ Employer _____

Single Widow _____ Divorced _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____ How many bridesmaids? _____

Residence after marriage: _____

The Service

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Day and Time: _____

Holy Eucharist Desired: Yes No Will there be assisting Clergy? Yes No

Organist: _____ Florist: _____

Please remember to include a non-refundable \$250 check with information sheet.