

PREPARING FOR

July 2025

# *Marriage*

AT ST. ANDREW'S



## *Getting Married at St. Andrew's*

Congratulations! We are delighted that you are interested in being married at St. Andrew's, and rejoice with you as you begin your planning and preparation for marriage. Please use this booklet to guide your preparations and to learn more about weddings in our beautiful church.

The Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer* describes Christian marriage as a "solemn and public covenant between committed adults in the presence of God." By being married in the Church, you are making a 'faith statement.' You will state that you desire to pledge yourselves to each other in marriage before God and in the presence of God's people. You will ask the Church to bless your commitment and ask the congregation to uphold you in prayer. You will invite Jesus's life and love to be at the center of your marriage. Your wedding day will mark the beginning of a Christian marriage, blessed by God, whose grace and love will sustain you in your life together.



## *Preparation for Marriage*

Couples wishing to be married at St. Andrew's must complete premarital preparation. This usually takes the form of meeting with our clergy three times for about an hour, with the sessions spaced about a month apart. This gives you and your partner the chance to explore your relationship and to reflect together on the gifts and challenges that marriage offers. In some cases, our clergy may suggest or require a couple to seek additional counseling with a trained therapist. It is best to start this premarital preparation about six months before your wedding date.

People who have been divorced may be remarried in the Episcopal Church with approval from the Bishop. This approval process will be discussed in your consultation with the clergy.

## *The Wedding Ceremony*

The Episcopal Church offers two options for the wedding ceremony. The clergy will give you a booklet with both options, along with choices for readings. The service typically lasts about thirty minutes. The clergy will work with you to plan the service, usually during your third meeting with them.

## *Music*

Our director of music, Dr. Deborah Friauff, will help you choose music for the service, will serve as the organist for the service, and will help contract additional professional musicians if desired. Guest musicians are welcome to participate in the service pending her approval. Please contact Dr. Friauff ([dfriauff@standrewsaa.org](mailto:dfriauff@standrewsaa.org), 734-663-0518, ext. 205) at least three months prior to your wedding to begin the music selection process.





## *Wedding Fee*

St. Andrew's charges a fee of \$2,500 to assist with the costs associated with your wedding. This covers the stipends for our director of music, wedding attendant, building staff, and your premarital preparation, and includes a donation supporting the ministry of our congregation.

## *Flowers and Other Decorations*

Please consult with our parish administrator, Jonathan Gardner, about guidelines for flowers and other decorations before working with a florist. Easily removable bows or small flowers may be tied to the pew ends. Nails, tacks, etc. may not be driven into any woodwork in the church. **Due to safety considerations, aisle runners are not permitted.**

We have found that rice, confetti, and rose petals are extremely difficult to clean up and therefore they are not permitted. Bird and grass seeds are acceptable if tied up in bunches, distributed as people leave the church, and used only outside the buildings. The release of butterflies or birds is not permitted.

## *Programs*

If you wish to have a program for your ceremony, the clergy will provide an outline of the service. You are responsible for preparing and printing the program. Please have the clergy approve the final proof before printing.

## *Photographers and Videographers*

You may have one professional photographer and/or one videographer. Flash pictures and video lights are not permitted during the ceremony. Posed pictures can be taken before and/or after the service.

Please provide these guidelines ([see addendum](#)) to your photographer and videographer and ask them to review, sign, and return them to you. Please submit the signed guidelines to the office at least thirty days before your wedding.

## *Rehearsal*

A rehearsal of the ceremony is generally held the day before. Please schedule your rehearsal with the clergy, and please plan on having your entire wedding party present.



## *Marriage License*

You must have a valid Michigan issued marriage license in order to be married at St. Andrew's (out of state residents must have a Washtenaw County issued marriage license). More information regarding requirements and how to obtain a license in Washtenaw County can be found [here](#). **Please bring your marriage license to the rehearsal.**

## *Parking*

St. Andrew's has a small parking lot behind the church off Catherine Street, which runs one way from State to Division. You may want to encourage your guests to reserve those limited spots for family and others with mobility issues. Parking is available on street and in the municipal lots behind Community High School and off of N. Fourth Avenue.



## *Planning Checklist*

- ☐ Review this booklet.
- ☐ Contact our parish administrator Jonathan Gardner ([jgardner@standrewsaa.org](mailto:jgardner@standrewsaa.org), 734-663-0518 ext. 200) to schedule your wedding. A \$500 deposit is required to reserve the date.
- ☐ At least six months before wedding, schedule premarital preparation with the clergy
- ☐ At least three months before wedding, contact our director of music, Dr. Deborah Friauff ([dfriauff@standrewsaa.org](mailto:dfriauff@standrewsaa.org), 734-663-0518, ext. 205), to discuss music
- ☐ At least thirty days before wedding, pay balance of wedding fee.
- ☐ At least thirty days before wedding, submit the signed guidelines from your photographer and/or videographer
- ☐ Make a plan to apply for a marriage license. Information on Washtenaw County Marriage Licenses found [here](#). Bring the marriage license to the rehearsal.





**ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**