

## SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

When a couple makes a decision to be married, they are urged to contact the rector of Saint Gabriel before determining a date and time, and before planning the wedding itself. This is to make sure there is no conflict with dates of other events on the church calendar. Active church membership is important, expressed by attendance at worship services. Exceptions may be made by the rector. It is important that both bride and groom be baptized and observant followers of Christ Jesus, but exceptions to this norm may be made in conversation with the clergy.

## PREMARTIAL COUNSELING

The canons of the Episcopal Church say that a couple desiring Christian marriage must meet for several sessions of premarital preparation with a member of the clergy.

These sessions are designed to help the couple look at areas of their life together, with the intention of giving them additional tools to help their marriage grow and prosper, and to enhance their skills in dealing with potential areas of conflict. While there is often a certain amount of fear as couples approach these sessions, most have found them not only to be helpful, but enjoyable! The scheduling of these counseling sessions is made at the first meeting between the clergy and the couple.

## REMARRIAGES

The church wants to help couples seeking marriage in the church, even though their previous marriages may have ended in divorce. However, there are special requirements in these cases. If either party in the proposed marriage has been divorced, application for marriage in the church cannot be made until at least one year has elapsed since the final divorce decree of the previous marriage. The divorced person(s) must give the clergy person a copy of the divorce decree and complete *the Application for Permission of Divorced Persons to Remarry*. The priest, in counseling with the couple, will determine whether the proposed marriage appears healthy. In the case of a positive assessment, the priest will send a recommendation to the bishop of the diocese for approval. The bishop's answer can be expected within 30 days. After receiving the bishop's approval, the couple and clergy person can set a date for the marriage.

Where there has been more than one marriage for either of the parties there is a requirement for outside counseling in addition to counseling with a clergy person.

### Assisting Clergy

It is always appropriate for the couple to ask other clergy they may know to assist the rector at the wedding. When the couple notifies the rector of the person(s) they wish to invite, the rector will formally issue an invitation to participate.

## THE REHEARSAL

A rehearsal is necessary to enable the participants to know in advance where they are to be and what they are to do. A rehearsal for the wedding is usually held on the evening prior to the day of the wedding. All participants in the ceremony are asked to be present. Rehearsals usually last 60 minutes. The clergy person officiating at the service will conduct the rehearsal. A member of the Altar Guild will also be present.

## YOUR WEDDING DAY

The bride and her attendants should arrive one hour to one and one-half hours prior to the ceremony. The rest of the wedding party should arrive at the church one hour before the ceremony. Arrangements should be made with the Altar Guild member at the rehearsal as to arrival time. Dressing rooms for the bride (with mirrors) will be available on the lower level. Groomsmen may use the library on the main level.

The rector is pleased to answer any questions that may arise from these guidelines, and to discuss suggested variations of them. May your wedding day be a joyous one, and your marriage a true reflection of God's love for us all!

## MUSIC

Following the confirmation of your wedding date with the priest you should contact Saint Gabriel's Director of Music Ministry if you wish to have music. It is important that the musician meet with the couple well in advance to plan appropriate wedding music.

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

A bouquet of flowers will be needed for the niche in the sanctuary. (The sanctuary lamp must remain in the niche). If the wedding is on a Saturday, the flowers in the niche must remain for Sunday services. We will add to the bulletin that the "flowers are given in thanksgiving for the marriage of ..." Any other floral decorations may be removed from the church following the wedding.

## CANDLES

The church will provide the altar candles. There are 10 pew candle holders which fit on the end of every other pew. Flower rings may be used on the pew candles.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

No flash photography is permitted during the wedding ceremony itself. Preceding or following the service, flash photographs may be taken in the church. The photographer may take pictures of the bridal party as they begin their walk down the aisle. Time exposures from the choir loft may be taken during the ceremony.

## VIDEOGRAPHY

Your wedding may be videographed; however, the photographer may not use extra lighting. The camera may be set on a tripod in the choir loft or elsewhere with the permission of the priest who is performing the ceremony.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At both the rehearsal and the wedding, a member of Saint Gabriel's Altar Guild will be present to assist you in preparations, i.e., dressing, helping with flowers, photographer, ushers, and as otherwise needed. You will be given the name and phone number of the altar guild member prior to the wedding date. We do not permit the use of outside consultants in any capacity during the rehearsal or ceremony.

## AISLE RUNNERS

In the interest of safety, aisle runners are not allowed. No rice, confetti or birdseed is allowed in the church or on the grounds. Flower petals may be tossed outside the building.

## RECEPTIONS

The Parish Hall is available for receptions following the ceremony. The reception may be catered through an outside vendor. There is no charge for use of the hall to members of Saint Gabriel.

## COSTS

It is the policy of Saint Gabriel that no member will be charged for any of the sacraments of the church. There is no fee for clergy who officiate at your wedding. However, couples who wish to acknowledge thanks to the church are encouraged to make contributions to the clergy member's Discretionary Fund, an account that is used to assist people who are in special need.

A minimum appropriate honorarium for the organist is \$125 and the Altar Guild is \$50.

## THE CEREMONY

### The Holy Eucharist

We welcome celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at weddings. It is fitting that the first act by the newly married couple is the partaking of Communion with their

family and friends. Offering the sacrament to the entire congregation is to be preferred to limiting communion to the wedding party alone. And while there are at times good reason to omit the celebration of Holy Eucharist from the wedding itself, an alternative is to celebrate the Eucharist at the rehearsal prior to the wedding.

At Saint Gabriel the marriage service used is “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage” starting on page 423 of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

### Acolytes and Chalice Ministers

Arrangements for an acolyte and/or chalice minister to assist with the wedding may be made through the rector.

### THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

No marriage may be solemnized without a Marriage License obtained from a County Clerk’s office in the State of Colorado. Any county in the state may issue your license; it does not have to be the county in which you reside.

Application Both the bride and groom must complete and sign the application form, in person, before the clerk. If one of the parties cannot appear in person, he or she must complete the application, and have it notarized before it can be accepted by the clerk.

License The license can be issued any time within 30 days before the wedding and is valid for only 30 days.

Cost Must be paid in cash. (Check with the county for the current fee).

Note: Your license must be brought to the church at least three days prior to the ceremony. Please be sure to bring all papers the county clerk’s office gives you. After the wedding we will mail the papers back to the county.

### PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

#### Seating and Parking Capacity

The building seats 236. We have parking spaces for 86 cars plus four designated handicap spaces for those with a disability. The building is accessible to those with a disability at the north and west entrances.