

# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

## Wedding Planner

Congratulations on your forthcoming wedding. We are pleased that you are considering marriage at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Nantucket. The celebration of your marriage is a unique moment in your life, and preparation for it is important, so please read this Wedding Planner carefully.

### Who can be married at St. Paul's?

At least one of the person's to be wed is a baptized Christian, and one of the following:

- One or both are active members of a Church
- One or both are actively seeking a church where they can worship.

### Scheduling your wedding

Generally, Saturday no later than 4:00pm is the preferred day and time for weddings at St. Paul's. Weddings are discouraged during Lent, Holy Week, Daffodil weekend, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

### The Wedding Rehearsal

The rehearsal is conducted at 5 pm on the Friday evening before the wedding. It is important that all participants be present and ready for the rehearsal promptly at starting time.

### Divorced Persons

Persons who have been divorced must make a copy of their final divorce decree available to the Rector no less than 60 days prior to the wedding date. The Episcopal Church accepts the civil process for dissolution of marriage, but the consent of the Bishop must be obtained before re-marriage in the church.

### Pre-Marital Instruction

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and St. Paul's Church require that couples being married within this diocese complete at least four counseling sessions of not less than one hour each with our Rector. These should be scheduled well in advance with St. Paul's office. However, if you live off island you may seek counseling at your local Episcopal Church, but an Episcopal priest must do the counseling. A written report of the counseling sessions must be sent to our Rector. We also ask that you find time to talk to our Rector to review the report even if it is only over the phone.

### The Officiant

The Rev. Dr. Eugene McDowell, our Rector, will officiate at all weddings. Other clergy, either of the Episcopal Church or of other denominations who have a special relationship with either the bride or groom, may be invited, at the discretion of our Rector, to assist in or officiate at the service.

## Wedding Service Details

The “Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage” as contained in the Book of Common Prayer (on page 427) is used as the liturgical form for the service. The couple is asked to choose the scripture lessons, the readers of the lessons, the music (hymns: processional, recessional, etc...) whether or not they would like Holy Communion, and other particulars relating to the service. If there is Holy Communion, all baptized persons in the congregation are invited to partake of the bread and wine.

By choosing to be married inside the church, the couple is making a ‘faith statement’ to all their family and friends, which in effect says:

*“We are two people who desire to make a marriage covenant before God and in the presence of God’s people. In a service of worship we want to stand before God’s altar and commit ourselves to each other for the rest of our lives. We intend to live our married life in the community of the faithful (the Church). We are inviting the life and love of Jesus Christ to be at the center of our marriage. In order to make an appropriate beginning, we have come to this place to ask a priest in the name of God to bless our commitment and to ask the congregation to pray for us.”*

One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture may be used. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9 (. . . and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13;8:6-7 (Many waters . . .)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (That she and I may grow old together)

I Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family . . .)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds . . . in harmony)

I John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:21,24-29 (Like a wise man . . .)

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

Secular Readings are permitted, as long as you have **two readings from the Bible** and the **rector has approved the readings** prior to the printing of your ceremony program.

## Holy Communion

Holy Communion is the central event of Christian worship. It is a festive holy meal in which Christians celebrate Christ’s love in their lives and come to the altar to be fed by his Body and Blood. Holy Communion, or Holy Eucharist, is the ideal context for the sacrament of marriage. When the service includes Communion, the couple, following the taking of vows, is sharing with the congregation in this feast of God’s love. This is well worth considering with the officiating priest.

## Flowers

The bride and groom are responsible for the cost of altar flowers for their wedding. We prefer you order from Flowers on Chestnut (508-228-6007) as they are familiar with our altar measurements and will be able to provide exquisite arrangements in keeping both with your plans and the season of the Church Year. Please check with the office to see if your flowers may remain on the altar for the Sunday worship services. If you wish to use another florist, it is possible with approval from our Rector and with the understanding that they decorate in keeping with the understated environment of St. Paul’s Church.

## Photographs

The bride and groom may designate an official photographer to take pictures during the ceremony. However, using strobe lights or flashes in the church during the ceremony is not permitted. The

church requests that no one else take pictures during the ceremony. Wandering about the church to “get the right angle” is not acceptable. A video camera may be used if the location is unobtrusive and if the camera is on a tripod and left there throughout the ceremony. Let the clergy know if you want to include them in photographs following the service.

## Wedding Program

Programs for a wedding ceremony are not required, but can be helpful if guests are not familiar with the Episcopal liturgy. Our office can make you a simple program or you may choose to have one printed up by a professional printer so they match your wedding announcements. When a printed program is to be used, be sure to get it approved by The Rector **before** it goes to the printer. Our fax number is 508-325-4920 or you can email it to: [office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org](mailto:office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org)

## Candles

The candles on the altar are lit during the wedding service. In addition, we have a freestanding candelabrum available for weddings when it's dark. Unity candles are not part of the Episcopalian tradition and will not be allowed.

## Confetti, Aisle Runners and Seating

Rice, confetti and other durable items are not allowed. However, rose petals are permitted outside the church, but nothing may be thrown inside the church. St. Paul's Church does not permit the use of any aisle runner. St. Paul's Church seats about 300 people.

## Wedding Music

Music is used as an offering for the glory of God and to help the congregation in their worship. It is important that music at a wedding support this purpose. Bernadette Nadeau, Music Director and Organist, will play organ music as her schedule permits. Please contact her at 508-228-0916, ext. 14 prior to finalizing your music choices. She will be happy to give you suggestions for appropriate music.

## Marriage License

Those being married at St. Paul's Church are required to fill out a Declaration of Intention at least two months prior to the wedding date. The Declaration of Intention is an affirmation of a couple's intention to live in a Christian covenant as set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

The marriage license required by the State must be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 16 Broad Street, Nantucket. Please call 508-228-7217 for more information. **There will be no wedding without a valid marriage license which must be brought to the Rehearsal.**

## Fees

The fee for being married at St. Paul's is \$3,000 per couple for members\* or \$5,000 per couple for non-members. This fee includes the Rector's, the organist and cleaning fees but not the flowers or any special performers. We require a **nonrefundable** deposit of 20% at the time of booking to hold your date. **The balance must be paid at least 1 month prior to the ceremony date.** Please make your check payable to St. Paul's Church.

\*A member is someone who attends regularly and provides identifiable support to St. Paul's

## Making the Call

If what you've read so far fits who you are as you seek God's blessing upon your marriage, then call St. Paul's office at 508-228-0916 to request a meeting. We urge you not to make any firm wedding plans until you have first talked with the Rector about your wedding.

We acknowledge that everyone leads busy lives; nonetheless, the bride and groom are the ones who need to handle the details with the church.

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions you may have. We will do our best to answer your questions and to make your wedding day a joyous beginning for your marriage!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Nantucket  
P.O. Box 278  
Nantucket, MA 02554-0278

Phone 508-228-0916  
Fax 508-325-4920  
e-mail: [office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org](mailto:office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org)

**Requested wedding date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bride:**

- I have not been married before.
- I have been divorced once.
- I have been divorced more than once.

**Groom:**

- I have not been married before.
- I have been divorced once.
- I have been divorced more than once.

**Bride's Church/Religious Background:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's Church/Religious Background:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bride's full name & Mailing Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's full name & Mailing Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bride's phone number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's phone number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bride's email:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's email:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bride's Parents full names:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's Parents full names:**

\_\_\_\_\_

***By signing this you are saying that you understand and will adhere to the wedding policy as described and put forth by St. Paul's Church.***

**Bride's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_