

Church of the Holy Comforter, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania
Wedding Policy

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! As disciples of Jesus Christ, who performed his first miracle at a wedding, we believe that marriage is a beautiful thing, a sacred and lifelong bond between two people that reflects the love of God for all of creation. At Church of the Holy Comforter, we are happy to participate in solemnizing and blessing your marriage. We pray that your wedding may be a joyous occasion, and that it may lead to many years of love and faithfulness.

The following policies and procedures are in place for those who wish to be married in the Church:

- We believe that marriage is a Holy Sacrament that mystically reflects the love of Christ for the Church. Accordingly, one member of the couple must be a baptized Christian, and it is preferable that both be baptized Christians.
- As an Episcopal church, our worship is structured and governed by the *Book of Common Prayer*. The wedding ceremony must follow the format set in the prayer book. Because we are a Eucharistic community, and because we believe that marriage brings us closer together within the Body of Christ, it is strongly encouraged that all weddings take place within the context of a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- The rector officiates at all weddings performed in this parish. The couple is required to meet with the rector prior to the wedding for premarital instruction in the Church's understanding of Christian marriage. Generally, there are about five sessions. No wedding date will be scheduled until the couple has met with the rector at least once.
- No flash photographs are permitted during the service. However, the photographer may take pictures prior to the service. He or she may also stand at the rear of the church to photograph the bride entering the church and the bride and groom as they return down the center aisle at the end of the ceremony. After the wedding, the participants may pose for pictures at the altar, if so desired. Videography is not permitted during the service.
- If either member of the couple has been previously married, a special session may be called for in which the couple discuss with the rector the nature and end of the previous marriage(s). If the previous marriage(s) ended in divorce, the rector will also need a copy of the original divorce decree(s). A final decision on remarriage in the church will be rendered by the Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania. Accordingly, couples are encouraged to meet with the rector at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date in order to ensure that the bishop's permission is requested in a timely manner.
- Rehearsals are generally scheduled for the evening before the wedding. This must be arranged for ahead of time.

- Both members of the couple and all attendants are expected to be at the church an hour and a half before the wedding. We can provide separate spaces for the couple and members of the wedding party to prepare if necessary.
- The Minister of Music will be available to meet with you about selection of music. She is in charge of all music for the wedding and will have final authority over what pieces are played. Secular music is not permitted. Soloists or additional musicians may accompany the Minister of Music only if she gives express permission. In some instances, the Minister of Music may allow for a guest musician or musicians to take her place, in which case she shall still review/approve requests for music selections. However, even in this situation it is required that the Minister of Music be given her customary fee in the amount specified in the “Required Fees” section below as “Minister of Music fee.” Failure to do so may result in postponement of the wedding until balances are settled.
- The sexton will be available the day of the wedding and at the rehearsal for anything that may come up.
- No confetti, birdseed, glitter, or other similar item is permitted to be thrown either in the church or on the church grounds. Additionally, there is to be no receiving line at the church following the service. The reception is the proper place for the couple to receive their guests.
- You are responsible for cleaning up the building after using it. This is especially true for Saturday weddings since people will be coming in to worship the next morning. Failure to clean up adequately may result in a bill for the cost of professional cleaning.
- If you wish Church of the Holy Comforter to provide wedding bulletins, complete and accurate information must be provided at or before the last session of premarital instruction.
- All fees must be paid in advance, at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

Church of the Holy Comforter, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania
Required Fees

Members of the Parish

For the purposes of this policy, a member of the parish is a communicant in good standing who has been regularly attending services for at least one year and who pledges. Adult children of current parishioners, who grew up in this parish and are currently active in other parishes may also be considered members.

- 1) Use of Sanctuary..... No charge
- 2) Rector's fee..... No charge
- 3) Minister of Music fee..... \$150.00
(plus \$50.00 per rehearsal if there is a soloist)
(check payable to "Erin Sprague")
- 4) Sexton fee..... \$125.00
(plus \$75.00 for use of special candles on pews if so desired)
(check payable directly to the Sexton)
- 5) Rector's discretionary fund charitable contribution..... \$300.00 to \$500.00
(suggested donation)
(check payable to "Church of the Holy Comforter" with notation "Rector's Discretionary Fund")

Non-members and Guests

- 1) Use of Sanctuary..... \$150.00
(check payable to "Church of the Holy Comforter")
- 2) Rector's fee..... \$600.00
(check payable to "Thomas Eoyang, Jr.")
- 3) Minister of Music fee..... \$150.00
(plus \$50.00 per rehearsal if there is a soloist)
(check payable to "Erin Sprague")
- 4) Sexton fee..... \$125.00
(check payable directly to the Sexton, whose name will be provided by the Church)
- 5) Rector's discretionary fund charitable contribution..... \$250.00
(check payable to "Church of the Holy Comforter" with notation "Rector's Discretionary Fund")