

# St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
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## Weddings at St. John's Episcopal Church

We are delighted that you are considering St. John's Episcopal Church for the celebration of your marriage. Weddings are both serious and joyous – the sacramental invocation of God's blessing on a holy union is a powerful testimony and witness to God's love. Here are some details to consider as you begin the planning process.

*(Please note: The remarriage of divorced people requires documentation of the divorce and the permission of our Bishop. The priest has more information on this, but please note that the wedding must not be publicized before we have received the Bishop's approval.)*

### Fees and Other Details

<b>Active members of St. John's</b>
<p>The celebration of a marriage is an act of the priest and congregation, and a sacrament of the Church – there is no fee <i>per se</i>. A donation of \$250.00 to the Priest's Discretionary Fund is suggested, along with a gift to acolytes and the Altar Guild. Note: All donations should be offered at the last pre-marriage consultation, placed in clearly marked envelopes to the attention of the Treasurer.</p>
<b>Non-Active Members of St. John's</b>
<p>Couples are encouraged to attend St. John's as often as possible before the wedding so the congregation can get to know you. The Episcopal Church specifies that at least one member of the couple be baptized (in any denomination). \$400.00 honorarium to the Rector, which covers his time and work in marriage preparation conversations, the rehearsal, sermon preparation, and the wedding itself. <i>The Rector of St. John's is to be the Officiant of the wedding; other ministers (including those of other faiths and/or denominations) may be invited to participate with the approval of the Rector.</i> \$400.00 gift to St. John's Episcopal Church \$20.00 to each Acolyte \$50.00 to the Altar Guild Note: All donations are to be offered at the last pre-marriage consultation, placed in clearly marked envelopes to the attention of the Treasurer.</p>

St. John's Episcopal Church is a Parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

*The Rt. Rev. Whayne M. Hougland, Bishop*

The Episcopal Church (USA)

*The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate*

Members of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

*The Most Rev'd Dr Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury*

## All Weddings

Organist: \$350.00 (may vary depending on music selected); “bench fee” for a non-St. John’s organist is \$150.00; visiting organists must be *approved* by the Rector and St. John’s organist. If one of our organists is selected, a “music meeting” is required *one month prior to the date of the wedding*.

Other musicians at your request; *all music and musicians must be approved by St. John’s Rector*. We have so many fine musicians in our community that recorded music is not appropriate.

Note: All donations must be given to the Rector at the last pre-marriage consultation, placed in clearly marked envelopes to the attention of the Treasurer.

**Flowers** are at your request with the approval of the Rector. Please note that flower arrangements are a bit challenging – the priest will be happy to discuss this with your florist, and we have florists’ names if you need them (garden flowers from family members are particularly appropriate). Flowers at the Altar should be left for the service of the following Sunday. **Artificial flowers are never appropriate.**

**Bulletins (printed programs)** may be provided by the church, for which there is a \$100.00 fee (black and white/cream – color is additional), or by a printer of your choice (the priest will provide the appropriate copy information, along with a sample if needed).

### Photography

Of course you will want to record this special day on film. However, please keep in mind that the Celebration of a Marriage is a sacrament of the Church. Therefore the following guidelines apply:

1. *Absolutely no flash photography at any time during the service.*
2. *A photographer may take non-flash photos at any time during the service, but it is advised that discretion is required – i.e., limited movement, non-intrusiveness.*
3. *If you wish a video of the service: One camera may be placed at the rear of the church, which will capture most of the service. A second may be used (and moved) but again – unobtrusively and with no artificial lighting.*
4. *The photographer must meet with the Rector not later than one week prior to the wedding to discuss the above and logistics.*
5. *Photos (flash and non-flash) may also be taken up to 30 minutes after the service.*

### Music

The priest will provide appropriate music guidelines. In general, remember that this is a service of the Church – hymns will generally be from the Hymnal 1982 or other

	approved Episcopal hymnals. Special music requests may or may not be met. <i>All music will be approved by the Rector.</i>
<b>The Service and Readings</b>	<p>The service will be from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 (beginning on Page 422), or supplemental liturgies approved by the Episcopal Church and the Rector.</p> <p>Readings will be from those suggested in the Book of Common Prayer (Page 426) or other approved passages of Holy Scripture. If you wish to have something personal (such as a poem or a reading written by a family member or from another source), please ask the priest before making the commitment.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to bring more people into the celebration – consider asking family or friends to read the lessons.</p>
<b>The Rehearsal</b>	It is expected that a rehearsal be held not later than 24 hours prior to the service itself. In attendance will be: the marriage couple; witnesses (Best Man/Maid or Matron of Honor); attendants; acolyte(s); Musicians; Readers

All couples are expected to meet with the Rector **a minimum of three times** prior to the wedding rehearsal. This is so the Celebrant can get to know you, marriage issues can be discussed, and the Priest is confident that the marriage should proceed with the blessing of the Church.

I hope these guidelines are helpful. Please feel free to ask any question, no matter how outlandish it may seem!

May God bless you abundantly as you prepare for your marriage.

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Rector

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