

# Planning Your Wedding

## At **Christ Church** In **Tarrytown**

43 South Broadway  
Tarrytown NY 10591  
914-631-2074  
The Rev. Susan Copley, Rector

Revised October 2013

# The Wedding Customary

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding. This is one of the most joyous occasions in your life, and we hope that we at Christ Church can assist you in making this day a celebration that reflects your love and commitment. The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a service of Christian worship, and the liturgy used at Christ Church is found in the Book of Common Prayer. Christ Church is more than a church building. The meaning of Christian marriage can easily be lost when we think of the church as only a beautiful place to celebrate a ceremony. We hope that as you begin to make your plans that you will be mindful that the vows you take in the marriage ceremony are not only promises to love one another, but that those promises are rooted and sustained by Christian faith. The wedding ceremony is to be the public affirmation of your commitment to one another and to God. To be married in the church is to affirm that the Christian faith is the context in which you want to begin your married life. We pray that the planning of your wedding day, and your life together are all expressions of God's great love.

The following guidelines will provide basic information for planning your celebration at Christ Church.

## Guidelines

**1. Who can be married at Christ Church-** Weddings at Christ Church are open to members and non-members. The Canons of the Episcopal Church U.S.A. (national standards and regulations) require that at least one of the parties be baptized. If neither of you has been baptized, but you would like to learn more about instruction in the sacrament of Holy Baptism please contact the church office for an appointment with the rector.

**2. Before You Set the Date-** Please make an appointment to talk with the rector. The Canons of the Church state that at least 30 days notice must be given before the ceremony. We recommend that at least 6 months notice be given. This allows for flexibility in scheduling your preferred date. Weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent. Although Fridays and Saturdays have become customary days for wedding celebrations, we invite you to consider having your wedding on a Sunday morning within the context of the principle liturgy of the community.

**3. Pre-marriage preparation-** You are invited to participate in a 6-month pre-marriage counseling/ support/ and planning. The rector will meet with you for 6 sessions. The sessions will focus on practical and spiritual issues related to marriage. A minimum of 3 counseling sessions is required. If you live a distance

from Tarrytown you must make arrangements with your local priest for the premarital counseling and have your priest communicate with the rector at Christ Church. This arrangement must be made before the wedding date is set.

**4. Legal Requirements-** You must have a marriage license from the state of New York. Your wedding cannot be performed without the marriage license.

You must sign a Declaration of Intention. This is a statement of your understanding and commitment to Christian marriage. (See attached- Canon 18 sec. 3 d-g )

**5. If One or Both People are Divorced-** Before remarrying it is recommended that at least one year has passed since the divorce. In order to be remarried in the Episcopal Church the clergy must obtain permission from the Bishop of New York at least 30 days before presiding at the ceremony.

**6. Arrangements for the Service-** This is your wedding, and we will try and do all that we can to allow that the service reflects your choices. The Episcopal Church uses the wedding service found in the Book of Common Prayer. Within the framework of this service there is flexibility. If for any reason you want to omit portions of this service this should be discussed with the rector in the first marriage preparation session. (ex. Ecumenical or inter-faith marriage.) The rector of Christ Church presides at all weddings. If you desire that a clergy from another church preside or participate, this should be discussed with the rector at the initial marriage preparation. We welcome the participation of your family and friends and we will help you plan ways to incorporate their participation.

**Music-** Our music director will be available for consultation. If you choose not to use the musician from Christ Church, permission must be obtained from the music director and or the rector. We encourage you to choose music that reflects the joy and celebration of Christian marriage. Please contact the church office to arrange a meeting with the church musician.

**Flowers and Decorations-** Flowers may be placed on either side of the altar. If flowers are to remain for Sunday morning, the bride and groom may request a dedication for the flowers in the weekly Sunday bulletin. (if so, the exact wording of the dedication must be given to the parish administrator no later than noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday bulletin- 914-631-2074

Ribbons may be tied on the pews, but no nails or tape may be used. Any other decorations must be discussed with the rector.

**Photographs and Video Taping-** Photos will be allowed in the church during the procession of the bridal party, but once the priest begins the service with "Dearly beloved:" the appointed photographer must remain stationary, and no flash

photos will be allowed. It is requested that all other photos be taken before or after the service. A stationary video camera will be allowed.

**Throwing Rice-** Please do not throw rice, birdseed, or confetti anywhere on the church grounds. (The birds don't like the rice, the couple won't like the birdseed and confetti is impossible to clean up.- thank you.)

<b>7. Fees-</b>	<b>Parishioner</b>	<b>Non-Parishioner</b>
Church	No Charge	\$1000
Sexton	\$100	\$100
Organist	\$300	\$300
(rehearsal)	\$50	\$50
Clergy	No Charge	No Charge
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>\$1350</b>

**Receptions in the Parish Hall** - Please contact the church office for details and cost.