

# Holy Matrimony

As Customarily celebrated in  
All Saints' Episcopal Church  
Las Vegas, Nevada



June 2006

**What is Christian Marriage?** Christian marriage is a lifelong union of a man and woman in heart, body, and mind. It is celebrated within the community of faith, by mutual consent, and with the intent that it be a lifelong commitment. Marriage is intended by God to be for the mutual joy of the man and woman, for help and comfort in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the bearing and raising of children in the knowledge and love of God. (see BCP p. 423)

**Who are the ministers of the Marriage?** The man and woman are the ministers; they marry one another. The minister presides and pronounces the Church's blessing on the union the couple has made. The gathered congregation witnesses the vows made by the couple and proclaim their support for the couple in their new commitment to each another.

**Who may be married in All Saints' Church?** Normally only members of the parish or their immediate family are married in the church, others may at the discretion of the rector, and they must comply with all canonical requirements, including pre-marital counseling. Couples not living in the area must complete pre-marital counseling with their local pastor. Marriage in the Church requires that at least one of the persons to be married must be a baptized Christian. It is expected that couples who live in the local community who are not members of All Saints' will attend worship at least during the marriage preparation time, and consider becoming members of All Saints' parish.

**For those living outside Las Vegas:** To be married at All Saints' if you live outside Las Vegas, or the State of Nevada, you must comply with all the Canonical requirements for marriage with a priest where you reside. These include marriage preparation with an Episcopal Priest and, if either party has been married before, the permission of the Bishop of the diocese in which you are resident. The Rector of All Saints' must have written confirmation from the priest at your home parish that all requirements have been met. You must also have a Nevada marriage license.



## **How do I schedule a wedding at All Saints'?**

You must contact the rector, through the parish office – 878-2373 before you set dates or times for the wedding, rehearsal, or reception. Normally the wedding must be at least 90 days from your first contact with the rector. The canons of the Episcopal Church require that the rector must determine that the couple may be legally married and that at least one party is baptized. In addition the couple must be instructed about the nature of Christian marriage, its nature, meaning and purpose.

Pre-marital counseling and instruction will vary depending on the couple and their particular circumstances, and be determined by the rector in consultation with the couple. Usually during the first meeting with the rector a date may be set for the wedding.

*Once you have made initial contact with the rector and have scheduled a meeting, you need to complete the bride and groom information on the form at the end of this document and bring it to the first meeting. If either party has been married before, there will be additional information required.*

## **Are their limitations on when a wedding may be scheduled?**

Yes. Weddings are usually not done in the season of Lent or on Sunday. Saturday weddings must be scheduled before 3:00 pm or after 6:30 pm so as to not interfere with the parish Saturday evening worship service.

The couple must sign the following Statement of Intent that they understand and agree to the Church's understanding of Christian marriage.

*"We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a life-long union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the liturgical forms authorized by this Church. We believe it is for the purpose of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and understanding, for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society. And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."*

**Are there any special requirements when either party is divorced?** Yes, if the former spouse is living, you must provide some information about the previous marriage and obtain the permission of the Diocesan Bishop before an Episcopal Priest can preside at the marriage. This may also require additional pre-marital counseling. In these cases, the couple should plan to give at least three months notice.

**Can a minister from another church preside?** An Episcopal Priest or Bishop, other than the rector, may preside with the rector's permission. Clergy from other denominations cannot preside.

**Can the rector decline to preside at a marriage?** Yes, the canons of the Episcopal Church and the policies of All Saint's Parish allow the rector to decline to preside at a marriage.

**Can the couple make up their own marriage vows?** No. There are some provisions to "customize" your wedding using *An Order for Marriage* in the Book of Common Prayer, but you must choose one of the forms of vows contained in the Rite.

**Can a civil marriage be blessed in the Church?** Yes, there is a form in the Book of Common Prayer for the blessing of a civil marriage. This service must be scheduled and meet the same conditions as a marriage.

**How are wedding scheduled?** Weddings are scheduled by the rector in consultation with the couple, on a "first come, first served" basis. Normally not more than one wedding is scheduled on any day.

**Who plans the service?** The rector, in consultation with the couple, plans the service using the Book of Common Prayer. Couples should review pages 422 through 437 of the BCP before their first appointment with the rector.

**Should the service include Holy Communion?** Holy Communion is not required at a wedding, but is encouraged

because it symbolizes Christ's self-giving love towards all human beings.

**What about music?** Music is planned in consultation with the Director of Music. If organ or piano music is to be used, the Director of Music is normally the musician. If other instrumental music or a soloist is desired, the Director of Music and Rector must approve it. All musical texts must come from Holy Scripture, the Hymnal or the Prayer Book. Popular "love songs" are not appropriate for a Church wedding.

**When should we get the Marriage License?** The license should be applied for at the county clerk's office in the State of Nevada County in which one of the parties resides. The marriage license must be brought to the rehearsal. The wedding will not take place without a valid license.

**Can we use an outside wedding consultant?** No. The Rector, Music Director, and Altar Guild Director provide these services.

**What about Church decorations?** The only decorations and flowers allowed are the flowers placed in vase behind the altar. Simple aisle decorations may be used, with permission of the Rector. Isle runners may not be used. Arrangements for flowers must be made in consultation with the Altar Guild director (call the parish office for the name and number of the current director).

Only those candles normally used for worship in the church are allowed for a wedding. "Unity" candles or other secular decorations and ceremonials are not allowed.

The Altar Guild prepares the church before the wedding and cleans up after. The fee for their services is \$75.00. Throwing CONFETTI, or PETALS is not allowed. Bubbles, rice or birdseed may be used outside. If birdseed or rice is used, there is an additional clean-up fee of \$25.00.

**What about service bulletins?** Service bulletins are not required, but are useful for souvenirs and to help the guests follow the service. Examples are available and the rector can assist in

preparing bulletins, however, the couple must prepare and print the bulletins. The final proof copy must be approved by the rector before printing. If you wish the parish to prepare and print the bulletin, an administrative fee may be charged.

**What about photographs of the wedding?** Flash photographs may not be taken during the service, nor may a photographer move around in the nave or chancel during the service. A stationary video camera in the nave may be used. Arrangements may be made for the rector and wedding participants to pose for photographs before or after the ceremony.

You should discuss what kind of photography (still and/or video) and plan for the particular scenes or settings they wish to have photographed and give the photographer specific instructions.

You might want to consider taking the “posed” photographs before the wedding. This allows for the wedding party to immediately be available to greet guests and attend the reception. It also places a limit on the length of the photography session. Photo sessions in the church after the service are limited to 30 minutes, as a courtesy to the waiting guests and the Altar Guild and Sexton. The photographer is expected to attend the rehearsal.

**What fees are charged for a wedding?** There is a \$250 fee for use of the church for non-members or non-contributing members (non-contributors-of-record for the previous six months). There is no fee for use of the church for contributing members, however, they are encouraged to make a donation to the parish.

Arrangements for a reception in the parish halls are made through the parish office. The Women of All Saints’ caters receptions and you may contract with them for your reception. Their fee is based on what arrangements are made with them.

Episcopal clergy are not paid for officiating, however, it is expected that a contribution will be made to their Discretionary Fund (checks made out to “Discretionary Fund”) (suggested contribution is at least \$100).

The musician is paid \$150 for the rehearsal and wedding. If additional rehearsals with soloists for other musicians are necessary, there may be an additional cost.

**How do we arrange for a reception in the Parish Hall?**



Contact the Parish Office to reserve the parish hall. There is a \$50 charge for use of the parish hall and all decorations must be taken down before 7 am on Sunday morning.

If you wish the reception hosted/catered by St. Margaret's Guild contact the parish office for the name and phone number of the current chair). Their charges are based on the services provided.

**If there is a reception at the church, may alcoholic beverages be served?** Yes, but they must be served with discretion and non-alcoholic beverages must also be provided. Intoxication is not appropriate and serving of alcohol must comply with the guidelines of the Diocese of Nevada and the laws of the State of Nevada.

**Are members of the church staff who assist with the wedding automatically invited to the reception?** No, The wedding is a public service of worship, however, the reception is considered a private party, by invitation only. If you wish to invite the priest, musician, servers, or others, you should send them an invitation.

**What about a rehearsal?** Wedding rehearsal is normally the day before the wedding. All participants, organist, readers, ushers, photographer, and all the wedding party, are expected to attend the rehearsal. The rehearsal should be scheduled prior to any rehearsal dinner or party.

**On the day of the Wedding.** The bridegroom and best man should arrive at least **25 minutes** before the service start. There are facilities for the bride and her attendants to dress and they should take the preparation time into account when determining arrival time at the church. Usually **one hour** before the service start is sufficient time.

**What about other questions?** Ask the rector.

## Fee Schedule

Church Use Fee non-members & non-contributing members		
	<i>(payable to All Saint's Church)</i>	\$250.00
Parish Hall for Reception	<i>(payable to All Saints' Church)</i>	\$ 50.00
Reception hosted by St. Margaret's Guild (based on services provided)		
Altar Guild Services	<i>(payable to St. Elizabeth's Guild)</i>	\$ 75.00
Sexton for setup and cleanup	<i>(payable to Sexton)</i>	\$ 50.00
"Bird seed fee"	<i>(payable to Sexton)</i>	\$ 25.00
Musician	<i>(payable to the musician)</i>	\$150.00
Clergy	<i>(payable to "Rector's Discretionary Fund")</i>	\$100.00
Administrative fees for bulletin preparation		<i>(as appropriate)</i>

All Fees must be delivered to the Rector at the rehearsal and the rector will distribute to the appropriate people.

### A list of reminders

**Date and time of Wedding:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and time of Rehearsal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings with the Rector:**

1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Consultation with Altar Guild:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Florist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting with the Organist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose readings for the service:**

**Old Testament:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Testament Epistle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Testament Gospel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Readers for lessons (except the Gospel)**

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**Marriage License obtained:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service bulletin prepared:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contacts:**  
**All Saints' Parish Office**  
**4201 W. Washington Ave.**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89107-2005**  
**allsaints@allsaintslv.com**  
**702 878-2373 Fax: 702 878-1829**

**The Rev. Eldwin M. Lovelady, Rector**  
**The Rev. Bede J. Parry, Music Director**  
**Mr. Erland Moreira, Sexton**  
*For Altar Guild and St. Margaret's Guild contacts, contact the parish office.*



**All Saints' Episcopal Church - Marriage Information Form**

Groom's full name:

\_\_\_\_\_

(First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip:

Email:

Is this your first marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

In what church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

In what church? \_\_\_\_\_

Parents:

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Residence:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Residence:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Bride's full name:

\_\_\_\_\_

(First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

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City/State/Zip:

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Email:

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Is this your first marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

In what church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

In what church? \_\_\_\_\_

Parents:

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Residence:

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Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Residence:

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