

**Photographs** To preserve the dignity of worship, *only* your photographer may take photographs or videos during the service. Please advise your guests of this policy in your invitation and program. Your photographer will adhere to the *Photography Guidelines* published in a separate document. Briefly, if the photographer's camera makes *no* clicking sound, the photographer may take photos *without flash* from the balcony during the service. Cameras making a clicking sound are allowed only for a limited number of photos. Flash photographs may be taken as the wedding party exits, and after the wedding, you may take flash photos in the church. Video or sound recording equipment is permitted only in the gallery; the priest or groom can wear a microphone.

**The Wedding Coordinator**, a member of St. John's Church, assists the couple with the logistics of the service. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator as soon as a tentative wedding date has been set.

**The Facilities Fee** covers costs for the use of the property and for staff time. Church members who attend regularly and pledge funds to support the church pay a reduced fee.

**Buildings** The church is open to guests 45 minutes prior to the service. The bridal party may use the Parish Hall up to two hours before the wedding. For an additional fee, you may use the Parish Hall for your rehearsal dinner or for the wedding reception, provided that you arrange for caterers and that all food is prepared off-site.

**Marriage License** A Virginia marriage license, valid for 60 days from the date of issuance, must be received in the Parish Office, 2319 E. Broad St. at least ten days before the wedding.

**Alcohol** To maintain the dignity of worship, the wedding party will refrain from excessive consumption of alcohol on the wedding day.

### **Some Episcopal Church Canons:**

The intention of the parties to be married must be communicated to the Rector at least 30 days before the wedding.

At least one member of the couple must be a baptized Christian.

The Rector has the right to decline to solemnize any wedding or union.

When one or both of the parties has/have been divorced, you must meet Episcopal Church and diocesan requirements. In the Diocese of Virginia, the priest must obtain permission for the Bishop of Virginia before he or she can officiate at the wedding where one or both parties are divorced.

### **Invitations, Programs, Newspapers**

For invitations, programs and other publications, please use the following information:

**Location:** St. John's Church  
2401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23223

**Celebrant:** The Reverend Amelie Wilmer

**Organist:** Jim Bennett

**Wedding Coordinator** Patty Duffy

**Please Note:** St. John's Church is not responsible for the security of any items in or on the church property.

**Parish Administrator  
& Wedding Coordinator**—Patty Duffy  
pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org

**Rector**—The Rev. Amelie Wilmer  
awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org

804.649.7938  
www.saintjohnsrichmond.org

**Parish Office and Mailing Address:**  
2319 E. Broad St. Richmond, VA 23223

2022

## St. John's Church

### Wedding Guidelines



Come, lift your spirit!

### **Our Mission**

We are a caring, spiritual community, joyfully embracing and nurturing all; serving God, each other, and the community.

St. John's Church  
2401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23223  
804.649.7938

## Blessings on Your Engagement!

Blessings on you both, as you begin your life's journey with God. At St. John's Church, you will make vows before God in a Christian context. Preparing to make these commitments invites you to explore the role of faith in your union—Why do you want to be married in a church? What commitments will you make to each other and to God? You must intend a life-long union to marry in the Episcopal Church.

Part of your preparation for marriage is regular participation in worship at our church so that you can connect with the faith community who will support you in your marriage. St. John's welcomes you, and requires that you attend at least six Sunday services prior to your wedding.

The Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer* calls the wedding service "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage." It is within this service of that marriage is solemnized. Same-gender couples are married according to the Episcopal service described in: *I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing*, which can be read online at <http://tinyurl.com/bvc7jnm>.



### Wedding Dates and Times

Contact the church at least six months prior to your desired wedding date so that your pre-marital counseling can be scheduled. After the Rector has tentatively agreed to officiate and the Parish Office has received your application and deposit of \$300, you can reserve your date. Weddings usually take place on Saturdays at or after 5:00 p.m. to avoid conflicts with tours; however, if able, we can arrange for weddings at other times.



### Pre-Marital Conferences

Before being married, you must complete at least five premarital conferences with the rector. These conferences explore Christian marriage and its meaning to you, the expectations each of you have, areas of possible conflict, and other aspects of your relationship. If either of you have been married before, additional counseling will be required.

### The Service

Weddings at St. John's Church follows the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP). The Rector officiates at all weddings at St. John's Church but welcomes the participation of additional clergy.

Often, weddings include Holy Eucharist, to which all present are invited.

**Music** All music for the service is under the direction of our Minister of Music. You and any additional musician(s) participating must consult with the music director at least *three weeks* before the wedding. He will work with you to

choose music appropriate to the liturgy. Secular music (including popular wedding music) is not performed; often this music is played at the reception.

**Fees** set forth in the enclosed schedule must be received by the Parish Administrator *ten days* prior to the wedding and are not refundable, even if the wedding does not occur in St. John's Church.

**Flowers and Decorations** To maintain traditions, the St. John's Altar Guild create the two flower arrangements at the altar. Those flowers remain after the wedding for use at Sunday worship. You may have your personal florist provide an arrangement for the table at the entrance to the church. Customarily, white bows that the Altar Guild provides mark reserved pews. You may arrange for your florist to provide flowered pew markers. Your florist will provide flowers held or worn by the wedding party. After the service, guests may throw birdseed *outside* the church, but nothing else, including petals, rice, or confetti may be used.

**The Rehearsal**, lasting about an hour and a quarter, is at 5:30 p.m. the evening before the wedding. The wedding party, parents, and readers attend the rehearsal. Photographers are welcome, but not expected.