

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Rector

The Reverend Bennett A. Brockman, Ph.D.

Associate Rector

The Reverend Mary Anne Osborn

Assistant Rector

The Reverend Alice Mindrum

Director of Music

John R. Abdenour

About Marriage at St. Paul's

We share your delight as you prepare for marriage, and we are pleased that you are interested in having your wedding at St. Paul's. Marriage is one of the sacraments of the Christian Church, and it is therefore to be entered into with appropriate preparation and care. At least one of the couple must be a baptized Christian. Here are answers to some of the questions frequently asked about marriage here at St. Paul's. For further information, please contact the parish office or one of the clergy at 259-3013.

1. I am a member of St. Paul's and I would like to be married here. How may that be arranged?

Set up an appointment with one of the clergy as far ahead of the proposed date as possible, and in no case less than one month before. If either person has been divorced the initial appointment should be at least three months before the wedding date. After you have made an appointment with one of the clergy, the parish secretary will tentatively reserve a date for you.

2. Is counseling required?

Yes. From four to six hour-long sessions are required. Most of these counseling sessions will be conducted by a professional marriage and family therapist and will explore the couple's readiness for marriage and their expectations regarding it. One or two sessions will present the church's understanding of marriage as a sacrament. These sessions will be conducted by the clergy or staff of the parish. All couples are required to sign a "Declaration of Intent" that pledges their commitment to lifelong marriage. There will be a final session with the clergy for planning the wedding ceremony.

3. Are there special requirements when marriage after divorce is sought?

Yes.

- a. At least six sessions with a professional marriage and family therapist are required, and these sessions must be scheduled so that they can be concluded, and a report made by the counselor to the clergy, at least three months prior to the wedding date. This will allow the clergy to make the requisite application to the Bishop for permission to perform the marriage. It is important to keep in mind that the Bishop's consent is not automatic.
- b. The report to the Bishop includes an assessment of the pastoral relationship between the couple and the priest. Hence it will be necessary for the couple to be known well to the clergy by being involved in the life and worship of the parish.

4. I am not a member of St. Paul's but would like to have my wedding here. Is that possible?

Yes, if there are sufficiently weighty pastoral reasons for this to happen. It will be important for you to discuss your situation with one of the clergy well in advance of your proposed wedding date, and to make sure that there is sufficient time for the required counseling. Because marriage, like the other sacraments, assumes that there is a supportive Christian community within which the sacrament is administered, it will be important for the couple to establish as close a relationship with the parish and clergy as possible.

5. Are there fees involved?

Yes, effective January 1, 2004, the Vestry as established the following fees for Wedding Fees at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield, CT

Parishioners:

One check, payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

Sexton	\$ 50.00
Secretary	\$ 50.00
Organist	\$150.00*
Clergy:	\$250.00
Parish:	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$750.00

Non-parishioners:

One check, payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

Sexton	\$50.00
Secretary	\$50.00
Organist	\$150.00*
Clergy	\$250.00
Parish	\$750.00
TOTAL	\$1250.00

*** Additional fee required if rehearsal(s) with musician(s) are needed.**