About Weddings
at
All Saints' Memorial Church

Welcome to the joy of planning your wedding! We offer this information to help guide your decision making in considering All Saints' as a place for the Celebration and Blessing of your Marriage.

All Saints' is a parish in The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey. We follow The Episcopal Church canons (church laws) and our Diocesan canons, under the guidance of our Bishop, The Right Reverend Sally French. Marriage is open to all legally marriable adults, including LGBTQ+ couples. The canons state that at least one partner must be a baptized Christian. They also state that if either or both of you have been married before and that marriage was ended through annulment or divorce, the permission of the Diocesan Bishop must be obtained in order to be remarried in the Church. The Rector will assist with this process after meeting with you a few times.

An initial meeting with the Rector is preferred at least six months prior to the wedding in order to schedule a wedding here. Both members of the couple should make an appointment for an initial meeting with the Rector. This initial meeting will be followed by several premarital counseling sessions. Please call the Parish office at 732-291-0214 or email the office at office@allsaintsnavesink.org to start this process.

Once the Rector agrees to officiate at your wedding celebration, we will ask you to complete a wedding information sheet so that we can gather the necessary information to move forward. The Rector will also set up a range of three to four dates for required pre-martial counseling, either in person or on Zoom.

Please note that the recommended capacity of the church is approximately 125 persons. If you are planning for a substantially larger guest list, you may want to consider an alternate church/location.

About the service

The Service will be taken from the Book of Common Prayer and other Episcopal sources. It is not our practice to have the couple write their own vows—they are provided within the context of the liturgy. You may elect to plan your wedding service with or without the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion). You may also select whether or not you wish to include music at your wedding.

All Saints' will provide altar candles, and we also have customized needlepoint wedding kneelers for the final blessing. We can also provide a full text bulletin on plain paper in black and white print. If you wish something more customized, we suggest you make arrangements with a printer. We can guide you as to what should be included in the bulletin.

Please note the following items are not permitted:

- Wedding runners;
- A Balloon release (for ecological reasons);

- The throwing of rice, confetti, wheat or birdseed.

Unity Candle: please know that the use of a Unity Candle is not our usual practice, and you will need to discuss this with the Rector. All Saints' does not provide a Unity Candle set.

Flowers: Please make arrangements with your florist for flowers for the altar. The flowers should not be higher than the cross behind the altar. Your florist may contact the church office to receive guidance on size and placement of flowers.

Music

The music for the wedding is under the direction of our Organist/Music Director, Mr. John Van Sant. Mr. Van Sant can work with you and the Rector in the selection of appropriate music for your wedding. If you decide to include guest musicians and/or soloists, these must be approved in advance by the Rector and Mr. Van Sant. The organist does not usually attend the rehearsal; if you feel it is necessary for the organist to be present at the rehearsal, there is an additional $100 fee payable to Mr. Van Sant for rehearsal.

Fees

The fee for the Organist is $300, payable directly to Mr. John Van Sant. There is an additional fee of $50 per rehearsal session with any soloist that you may hire and/or invite to perform. All individually requested music not in the Parish music library must be provided.

If you engage the services of another musician for the day, there is a still a bench fee of $250, payable to Mr. Van Sant, which may be waived at his discretion.

A donation, payable to All Saints' Church, is asked of church members in gratitude for your new life together, and in recognition of utility and maintenance costs. A donation of $200 or more is suggested for parishioners.

For non-parishioners, the fee for services of the clergy and church, including premarital counseling, is $750.

A separate fee to the clergy is not required, but donations are always appreciated.

Photography

We ask that you and your photographer honor the time set aside for your wedding celebration as well as recognizing that the church and clergy have other commitments to honor as well. Please plan accordingly when arranging for pre-wedding photos, whether they are on-site or off-site. On site photography may begin no earlier than 60 minutes before the scheduled time of your wedding, and/or no longer than 45 minutes after the service ends. If you anticipate you will need more time, you must discuss this with the Rector in advance.

Flash Photography: Flash photos may be taken before the service begins as members of the wedding party come down the aisle, and after the service ends as the wedding party/new couple recesses back down the aisle. There is NO flash photography during the ceremony itself.

Professional photographers and videographers may set up their equipment in the rear of the church. They may only be in the aisle for processional and recessional photos. Photographers are not allowed in the chancel/sanctuary/altar area at any time during the service.

The photographer must contact the church office prior to the wedding to discuss placement and policies with the Rector.

Wedding rehearsals

A rehearsal is suggested so that everyone is comfortable on the day of the wedding, and understands the flow of the service. Rehearsals may take place the evening before or even a few days before, and last about 45 minutes to an hour. The couple and their witnesses will sign the Parish Register at the rehearsal. We also ask you to bring your marriage license to the rehearsal so that we have time correctly complete it. It is expected that all wedding participants will be present at the rehearsal; if a participant cannot make it due to travel or other commitments, it is expected that the rest of the party will convey any needed directions.

Accessibility

Please note that our historic church is now accessible with a full ramp for the church entry. Accessible parking is available along the driveway loop behind the church (along the stone wall) to minimize walking distance. General parking is in our lower parking lot. Please discuss any potential overflow parking needs with the Rector so that arrangements can be made.

Wedding Transportation: Please let all transportation companies know that the GPS address of the Church is: 202 Navesink Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. Limos and smaller party buses can fit through the narrow entrance to the parking lot; if a large bus is being reserved, please advise the church in advance. Large buses may have to park on a neighboring side street.

Due to its historic nature there are no restroom facilities in the church building itself. Restrooms are available in the parish hall, the building closest to the parking lot.

Your wedding day

Traditionally, if certain members of the wedding party are serving as ushers, they are to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled wedding time to assist with seating guests; please let the Rector know if other arrangements are being made. All decorations, etc. should be in place well in advance. We ask that the wedding party arrive in a timely manner so that the wedding may begin on time.

A final note

The Clergy, staff, and community of All Saints' look forward to working with you to make your wedding a smooth and joyous celebration. We extend our best wishes and congratulations to you as you begin this new phase of your life together.