

# WEDDINGS

## AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

the wedding. If your wedding requires additional work, there may be other charges.

The Altar Guild coordinator will show the wedding party the dressing area which can be used for the bride and her attendants, as well as the area where the groom and his attendants may dress. The wedding party should plan to arrive well ahead of the ceremony. Ushers should be ready at least 45 minutes before the announced start of the ceremony.

We do not permit rice to be used for safety reasons and confetti is not allowed. If birdseed is used, it must be kept outside of the building.

St. John's is a non-smoking facility. The use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted before the ceremony. If your reception will be here, please speak with the Rector about the parish policy concerning the serving of alcohol.

The parish hall may be reserved for small receptions, if available. Please call the parish secretary about details and fees.

The act of celebrating the Eucharist is a most appropriate response to the blessing of a marriage. It is highly recommended that the Sacrament of Holy Communion be included as a part of the wedding.

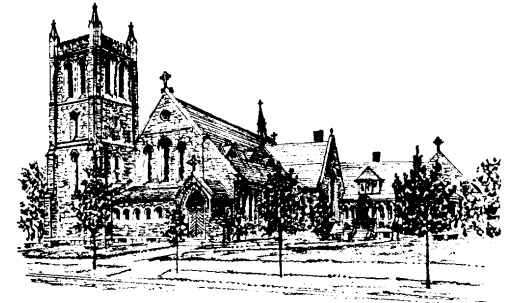
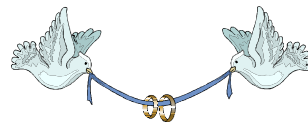
### Offerings and Fees

There is a difference between fees, which cover parish costs, and an offering, which is part of Christian worship. The offering is a thankful response to God for what has happened in our lives. The offering should be a generous reflection of our resources and an expression of thanksgiving. The amount is a matter of conscience. The Rector may be consulted if you have any questions or concerns.

A standard wedding fee of \$600 (portions of which may be waived, given individual circumstances) is a minimal part of your wedding cost. It covers the actual expenses of extra staff work in the preparation of and on the day of the wedding. All fees may be paid by check to St. John's Episcopal Church and are due one week before the rehearsal.

### A Final Note

The above guidelines are provided to assist in planning a wedding. If there are any questions concerning them, please do not hesitate to discuss them with the Rector. Please know that we realize that your marriage is one of the most important events of your life and that every effort will be made to help make this a most meaningful and worshipful occasion. We further realize that there are many beautiful innovations and creative ideas which can be added to a wedding. We do not wish to discourage your individuality; however, we strongly believe that when two people are ready to commit themselves to each other before God at St. John's, it is best done with these guidelines in mind. They are meant to ensure that all weddings will be beautiful, orderly and to the glory of God.



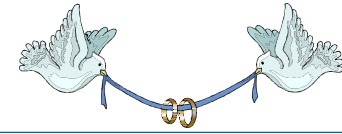
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*The mission of St. John's is ...  
To Share the Unconditional Love of  
Jesus Christ through Worship,  
Teaching, Healing and Service.*

# The Wedding Service



St. John's Church welcomes and rejoices with each couple as plans are made for a wedding service of worship in the church. It is our desire that your wedding be both meaningful and beautiful.

Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union between two people, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent, and with intent that it be lifelong.

## St. John's Wedding Contacts

Rector	The Rev. Bruce D. Blois
Secretary	Diana Westby
Organist	Barb Tuttle
Music Director	Mary Lynne Arms
Altar Guild	Nancy Gaunt
Custodian	Jack Fader

## Application & Legal Requirements

The bride and groom should sit down with the Rector to complete the application long before the ceremony. This will start the process. One of the applicants must be a baptized Christian at the time of the application, and the marital status of both must be ascertained. If one or both have been married before, the permission of the Bishop will be required. This permission assumes that they have been active members of the parish and known to the clergy for six months or more and necessitates an additional two months for the application process.

## Counseling Before the Marriage

The Rector will meet with the couple to discuss the nature and meaning of Christian marriage. If either of the couple lives a good distance from Keokuk, this may be arranged with

another Episcopal priest.

## The Liturgy and the Clergy

The most beautiful marriage liturgy in English is in The Book of Common Prayer. This is the only liturgy we may use. There are a number of choices to be made and the couple will be actively involved in making decisions with the priest who officiates at the wedding. If either of the couple is an active member of another church, they may invite their clergy person to participate in the liturgy. This decision can be discussed with the Rector of St. John's

## Altar Guild

A representative of the Altar Guild will make arrangements to meet with the family about plans for the wedding and a checklist will be completed at this meeting. The Guild will assist the wedding party at the rehearsal, on the day of the wedding and help them with any other needs they may have. The Guild will also appropriately prepare the altar and the church.

## Rehearsal

Please present the marriage license to the Rector at the rehearsal. Participants, including all ushers, bridesmaids, parents of both the bride and groom and any soloist or musicians, should attend the rehearsal. The rehearsal must begin promptly and will last about an hour.

## Wedding Music

After the wedding date is confirmed, an appointment should be made with the organist of St. John's Church. Any guest soloist or instrumentalist must be coordinated with the organist.

The organist will then assist you in selecting the music which will reflect the religious nature of the Sacrament of Marriage. Some music may not be appropriate to the church setting. Please consult the organist first.

## Photography

Photographs may be taken either prior to, during or after the wedding ceremony. The photographer must consult with the Rector and/or the Altar Guild on the day of the ceremony as to any limitations regarding locations of photography. After the ceremony, the photographer may have time for pictures in front of the altar. Please explain these rules to the photographer. Video taping is allowed, but it must be stationary and remain out of sight. Have your videographer make an appointment with the Rector.

## Flowers

**At the altar:** The classic architecture of St. John's gives the opportunity for beautiful flowers to be used. The Altar Guild will assist you in making arrangements for the flowers. Artificial flowers, artificial materials and ribbon bows are not to be used on the altar at St. John's. The altar flowers remain in the church after the wedding, and can be distributed at the couple's request after the parish service on Sunday.

**Other flowers:** In addition, other flowers may be added as pew decorations, in the chapel areas and around the church. They are free to be taken and used elsewhere, if desired.

## Facilities

St. John's staff will prepare the facilities and be present to open, clean and close on the day of