

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2128 Barton Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 444-1449

Wedding Guidelines

Canonical Requirements

- The priest must have at least thirty days' notice. This is an absolute minimum; more notice is preferred.
- If either party has been previously married, and the former spouse is living, an application must be made to the Bishop for permission to be remarried in the Church. The priest will be glad to discuss the requirements of this application, and will need a minimum of sixty days to process it. The Diocese requires a waiting period of one year from the date of the final divorce decree. In the case of a third marriage, a waiting period of at least two years must elapse. No fourth marriage will be considered except in very unusual circumstances.
- At least one of the parties to the marriage must be a baptized Christian.
- Before the ceremony is performed, the couple must deliver to the priest a license from the civil authority.
- The priest may decline to perform any marriage ceremony, and may or may not disclose a reason for doing so.

St. Mark's Membership Requirements

- Nonmembers who are interested in being married at St. Mark's must attend Sunday worship on a weekly basis for a period of three months prior to any pre-marital pastoral counseling.

Rehearsal

- A rehearsal is usually held the evening before the day of the marriage, at a time that is convenient for all members of the wedding party, for the organist and for the priest.
- The wedding rehearsal is under the direction of the St. Mark's officiating priest: no independent wedding coordinators are permitted.

Music

- The priest and organist are to be consulted about any music to be used in the service (including choice of music and any additional musicians).
- Music must be appropriate to a religious service.
- The organist's fee is listed below

Flowers

- Flowers in the Church are to be discussed with the priest and with an Altar Guild representative.
- Flowers on the altar may not be taller than the bottom of the wooden cross on the wall behind the altar (32 inches in height).
- St. Mark's Altar Guild will place the flowers in the appropriate place after they are delivered to the Church.
- Wedding flowers are usually left in the Church for Sunday services, but other arrangements may be made.
- Flowers on the pew arms must be affixed with hooks.
- Altar candles and white kneeling pillows for the bride and groom are provided by the Church.

Photography

- The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a religious service, and for this reason the taking of pictures during the ceremony is not allowed.
- Video cameras may be used during the service, from the choir loft only.
- Taking pictures in the Church must cease thirty minutes prior to the ceremony.
- Taking pictures in the Church after the ceremony is limited to fifteen minutes.
- The wedding party is asked to inform the photographer of these rules. Photographers who do not comply will be refused permission to take further pictures, and will be denied permission to photograph future weddings at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Reception

- If you wish to use the St. Mark's Parish Hall for a reception, you must coordinate arrangements through the Church office.
- Alcohol is not permitted at receptions.
- The rental fee for the Parish Hall is listed below.

Clean-up

- For all weddings, St. Mark's sexton must be hired by the wedding party for cleaning the Church following the wedding.
- The sexton's fee is listed below.

Wedding Fees

Service/Facility	Fee
Church — nonmembers	\$100.00
Parish Hall	\$100.00
Clean Up (Sexton)	\$100.00
Music Director	\$200.00
Clergy — church members	not less than Music Director
Clergy — nonmembers	\$250.00