

# *Celebrating the Gift of Holy Matrimony*

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

65 North Main Street, Wallingford CT 06492

203-269-5050

[www.stpaulswallingford.org](http://www.stpaulswallingford.org)

Congratulations on your decision to celebrate the gift of God's love in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. We are honored that you are considering doing so at St. Paul's.

## Worship

The first step is to attend Sunday services if you are not already doing so. Services are generally held at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. (You may call the parish office or check the website to confirm.) We hope that you will find our liturgy uplifting and our community warm and spirit-filled. We believe this is important because weddings are first and foremost an act of public worship.

## Community

Once you have discerned that St. Paul's is the faith community in which you feel called to begin your married life, please contact the parish office to set an initial meeting with the clergy. At this meeting we will discuss your reasons for wanting to get married, especially at St. Paul's, and share our mutual expectations. *Once the clergy person has made a commitment to officiate at the wedding, a donation of \$300 (made out to St. Paul's Episcopal Church) is due in order to reserve your desired date.* During the time of your wedding preparation and beyond, we hope that you will be involved in the life and activities of the St. Paul's community. This normally includes, among other things, making an annual financial pledge to the parish.

## Pre-marital Counseling

After a date is reserved, you and the clergy officiating at your marriage will schedule a minimum of three additional pre-marital counseling sessions. (In

cases of re-marriage, more sessions are required.) The clergy offers you this time to underscore our belief that as important as your wedding day is to us, your life together is even more so.

### Wedding Workshop

Couples getting married at St. Paul's are required to participate in a "Wedding Workshop" in order to review the many liturgical options available in planning your wedding. This workshop generally takes place on a Saturday morning; as much advance notice as possible will be given to all participating couples.

### Music

Music for your wedding is arranged in consultation with the St. Paul's Music Director at least six weeks before the wedding. It is your responsibility to set up this meeting. The Music Director is happy to help you plan this important part of your celebration, and reserves the right to have final say on music selections used in St. Paul's Church. The Music Director's fee is \$225 (made out to Mr. Todd Simmons) and includes the consultation, rehearsal and wedding; additional fees may be incurred if time is needed to work with soloists or instrumentalists. If you wish to have another musician play at your wedding instead of the St. Paul's Music Director, the parish Music Director may still require his fee, per American Guild of Organist guidelines.

### The Rehearsal

The date and time of the rehearsal should be set when the wedding date is confirmed. All participants (attendants, readers, intercessors, ring bearers, etc.) are expected to attend. All remaining donations are due at this time. The bride and groom and their attendants will sign all documents at the rehearsal. *The marriage license, issued for the Town of Wallingford, must be presented to the clergy before the rehearsal can begin.*

### Details, details

- FLOWERS are your responsibility, in consultation with the parish altar guild. The florist should contact the parish office at least one week before the wedding to arrange access to the church. As a member of the parish community, it is customary for at least one flower arrangement to remain at St. Paul's for the following Sunday's service. They may be designated for the St. Paul's Prayer List as a thank-offering for the marriage, or a memorial gift for a deceased love one. Such designations are arranged through the parish office.
- RUNNERS are not used in the church as they are potentially dangerous.
- RICE, BIRD SEED, BUBBLES, FLOWER PETALS or other such materials are not used in the buildings or grounds.
- SMOKING is prohibited on all parish property.
- PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHERS must check in with the clergy at least 30 minutes before the wedding is scheduled to begin. Couples should alert both amateurs and professionals that flashes may be used only during the entrance processional and exit recessional, and not during the service. Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the chancel during the liturgy. However the candles will remain lit and the clergy vested for 15 minutes after the service if you wish to recreate portions of the liturgy or take additional pictures.
- If you wish to invite the clergy person to the rehearsal dinner or reception, please invite her or him as any you would any other guest. Likewise, please inform the clergy in advance if you wish her or him to say grace at the reception.
- Wilkinson Hall, the parish hall of St. Paul's Church, is available to rent for rehearsal dinners and receptions. Please contact the parish office to check availability and make arrangements.

### Summary of Donations \*

Due when the commitment has been made to celebrate your wedding at St. Paul's --

**\$300** (minimum) to reserve the church for your date

Due no later than at the beginning of the wedding rehearsal – –

**\$225** (minimum) to Music Director, Todd Simmons

**\$275** suggested thank-offering made out to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. (This fund is administered by the Rector and used to support outreach, mission and charitable needs in the community.)

**\$25** (optional) for use of pew candles provided by the St. Paul's Altar Guild

\* Please contact the parish office for fees associated with the use of Wilkinson Hall for the rehearsal dinner or reception.

(\*In cases of extraordinary hardship, donations may be reduced at the discretion of the Rector.)

Adopted by the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wallingford, CT

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Clerk of the Vestry) Date \_\_\_\_\_