

## Fees and Contributions:

Church usage fee for Members (active communicant in good standing)	\$500
Church usage fee for Non-Members	\$750
Clergy honorarium, suggested	\$250
Flowers, if created by Altar Guild	\$150
Organist (paid directly)	\$250
Rehearsal Fee (if needed)	\$ 50
Sexton (paid directly)	\$100

The Parish Hall may be utilized for a reception following the service, if the space is available. The rental fee, catering needs, etc. are determined on an individual basis.

Beer and wine are permitted for a reception only. Serving alcohol prior to the wedding is not permitted.

**Payments are due to the church office by 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the wedding date. The church office will supply the names of the organist and the sexton.**

## The Marriage License:

- The marriage license obtained by the couple from the Baltimore County Courthouse must be brought to the wedding rehearsal.
- The wedding cannot take place without a license.



# Wedding Planning and Marriage Preparation

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## Wedding Planning at Good Shepherd

Christian marriage is a covenantal relationship established when two individuals make solemn and public vows to one another in the presence of God and God's people. These promises of lifelong faithfulness and mutual love, care and respect, are sacramental, that is, "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." *Book of Common Prayer p. 857*

Those eligible to be married at Good Shepherd include any current member, family member who grew up in the parish, a newcomer who has been an active communicant for at least six months, or someone with pastoral connection to the parish. One of the two individuals must be baptized.

Pre-marital counseling sessions are required with either a member of the clergy, or a licensed therapist, or sometimes both.

### Scheduling a Wedding:

- Weddings are not scheduled after 6:00 p.m.
- A wedding rehearsal is required.
- One of the individuals to be married must be the primary point of contact for all planning.

### Music:

- The parish organist plays for all weddings or arranges for a substitute.
- Other instruments as well as choral and solo vocal music may be used with the approval of the organist.

### Rehearsal:

- The time for the rehearsal is normally 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the wedding and is about an hour.
- All members of the wedding party should attend the rehearsal.
- The officiating priest will run the rehearsal.

### Flowers and the Decoration of the Church:

- A member of the Altar Guild of the Church will work with the couple, and their chosen florist, on the parameters of the decorations.

- If a couple wishes, the altar flower arrangements can be created by the Church's Altar Guild.
- Only real, natural flowers and decorations are allowed. No plastic, silk or dyed material are permitted.
- In the event of more than one wedding on the same day, families are invited to share the flowers.
- Please notify the Altar Guild contact person as to the name of the florist and when delivery of flowers may be expected.
- The flowers remain at the Church for use on Sunday morning in celebration of the couple's marriage.
- Additional floral decorations, though unnecessary, may be used if approved by the altar guild contact person.
- If bouquets, corsages, and boutonnieres are delivered to the Church, a member of the wedding party is to be designated as responsible for distributing them.
- Additional decorations, such as bows on the ends of pews, candelabras, and aisle runners are prohibited. Check with Altar Guild contact person for additional advice.

### Photographs and Videotapes:

- Please keep in mind that a wedding is a sacred worship service.
- Photographs may not be taken during the service, other than by a designated professional. A designated photographer may unobtrusively take photographs with flash from the back of the Church prior to the service and during the entrance procession and retiring service procession.
- No flash photography may occur during the service itself.
- Flash photographs of staged poses are permitted before or after the service.
- A single fixed camera may be set up at the back of the church, with total height not to exceed seven feet.
- The photographer is encouraged to attend the wedding rehearsal.

### Service bulletins:

- The church office will prepare a bulletin outlining the order of service and listing the names of the wedding party. The format is standard.