

St. Margaret's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1601 Pleasant Plains Road
Annapolis, Maryland • 21409
st-margarets.org



WEDDING CUSTOMARY

UPDATED OCTOBER 2014

*O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage
that in it is represented the spiritual unity
between Christ and his Church:*

*Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that
they may so love, honor, and cherish each other
in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness,
that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO GETTING MARRIED AT ST. MARGARET'S

1. Read the material in this packet. If this meaning of marriage and this way of doing a wedding works with your faith and in your life/
2. Then fill out the form and send it to us.
3. When we receive it, we arrange for you to meet with a member of the clergy.
4. If all agree to continue forward, we'll set the date with you for your wedding at St. Margaret's.

*We are eager to help make your wedding a joyful
and meaningful experience.*

We hope these guidelines will be helpful.

What is Marriage?

The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of two persons in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

One of the most challenging and rewarding of human relationships, marriage is meant to be lived out in a community of faith where it can be supported and nurtured by others seeking to grow in love, forgiveness, justice, and compassion. By choosing to be married at St. Margaret's Church, we invite and encourage you to be supported by and committed to this church community now and in the future. If you live out of town, we will invite and encourage you to find a community that will support you in your life together.

Who may be married at St. Margaret's Church?

In the Episcopal Church, it is required that at least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church. While we will consider performing wedding ceremonies for those outside our community, we hope that whenever possible, people wishing to be married here will consider joining our faith community. If you don't have a current church affiliation, please attend one of our services and meet with our rector to see if St. Margaret's is the right place for you to be married.

We are happy to marry persons who are divorced; the canons of our Church require us to write the Bishop for permission in advance of the wedding, so please tell us if that is the case. We are also happy to have other clergy or leaders from other faiths take part in the wedding. This is done in consultation with the celebrant, so please alert them during your planning discussions.

Who may officiate?

A priest normally presides at the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, because such ministers have the function of pronouncing the nuptial blessing, and of celebrating the Holy Eucharist. Where it is permitted by civil law that deacons may perform marriages, and no priest or bishop is available, a deacon may use the service from *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*, omitting the nuptial blessing that follows The Prayers. In addition to clergy from St. Margaret's Church, other Episcopal clergy, clergy of other Christian denominations and non-Christian denominations may participate in the service, when deemed appropriate by the rector of St. Margaret's Church.

May persons who do not belong to St. Margaret's be married here?

When the schedule permits, persons who do not attend our church may request to be married in our historic facility. They must schedule a date with the Rector, preferably at least six months ahead of time, and receive permission to be married here.

When clergy other than those on staff at St. Margaret's are involved, they must write to the Rector requesting permission to marry the couple here and must provide information stating their ordination credentials. Upon approval by the Rector, proof of counseling must be received in advance of the wedding date before the ceremony may be performed. All weddings at St. Margaret's are Christian liturgies that take place in the name of the Trinity.

All of the other wedding customs of our parish as explained in this publication must be observed for these weddings.

Booking a Wedding Date

Although the church Canons state that the absolute minimum notice is thirty days, it would be very unusual for less than ninety days to be adequate. Please do not decide upon or consider any dates before you consult with a member of the clergy of St. Margaret's.

Weddings are not performed during Lent (the six weeks before Easter), and there are no weddings in Holy Week or the seven days prior to Christmas. Weddings are normally held on Saturday, and weddings are not scheduled on Sundays. Weddings are generally scheduled from ten in the morning until six in the evening.

Pre-Marital Preparation

All marriages celebrated at this parish will be preceded by several sessions of pre-marital preparation, covering such areas as personal finances, sexuality, family backgrounds, personal histories, communications skills, commitments beyond the marriage, Christian theology of marriage, and compatibility. Please be aware that on rare occasions, issues arise during the pre-marital discussions that compel a couple to alter their plans to marry or affect the priest's willingness to officiate.

Please Note: No wedding can be scheduled until the accompanying forms are on file in the Parish Office. No wedding announcements should be made until the date and time are established. If one or both of the parties has been married before, no booking of a wedding can be made until the couple has met with a member of the clergy staff. (When divorce is involved, announcements ought not to be ordered until the couple has received final permission from the Bishop of Maryland.) Advance preparation is essential in these cases.

Church Seating Capacity

Our maximum capacity is 250 people. Our space also limits the size of the wedding party. The church is air conditioned.

What is the nature of the service?

Marriage at St. Margaret's is performed within the tradition of the Episcopal Church according to the "Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage" as contained in the *Book of Common Prayer (1979)*. The final decision relating to all elements of the service rests with the St. Margaret's clergy person who will serve as the officiant. To assure the uniqueness of each service and the participation of the couple in the design and execution of their wedding service, each couple is asked to specify:

- ❖ the readings and/or lessons they desire,
- ❖ whether or not they desire the Holy Eucharist,
- ❖ music choices,

and a number of other particulars relating to the conduct of the service. These determinations are not time-consuming and they can be explored in consultation with the clergy.

Conduct

Before the wedding ceremony, the consumption of alcoholic beverages WILL NOT BE ALLOWED on the premises (including the parking lot) of St. Margaret's Church. The couple and their families are responsible for explaining that any drinking prior to coming to church may result in our not being able to go forward with the service. The simple truth is that even the least bit of alcohol to "calm the nerves" is a mistake and inevitably takes away from the grace and meaning of the service. (Please see our Policy on the use of alcohol on page 10.) The priest will not marry a couple if either person has been drinking.

Licenses

Important! The State License, issued for Anne Arundel County, must be obtained by the couple. Members must deliver their license to the church office **at least two weeks prior** to the wedding. The State License will be signed by the Priest immediately after the service and returned to the couple. Instructions to receive certified copies of your marriage license are in the envelope you received from the clerk.

Programs

The programs for member weddings will be printed by St. Margaret's free of charge. However, this is only possible if all of the appropriate information is made available to us **at least three weeks prior** to the wedding ceremony.

If information is not received by the officiant by the date specified, there will be a minimum charge of \$250, or actual production cost, whichever is greater.

Receptions

Our parish hall is available for receptions. The length or ending time of the reception will be determined in advance with the clergy. To reserve the parish hall for the reception, please contact the church office to receive a contract. The parish hall will hold approximately 150 for a seated dinner and 275 for a standing reception.

Caterers that have been used for weddings here in the past include:

- *Graul's Market - <http://www.graulsmarket.com/catering.html>
- *The Light House - <http://www.annapolislighthouse.org/catering>
- *Main Ingredient - <http://www.themainingredient.com/catering>

Alcoholic Beverage Policy

Beer, wine and champagne may be served at receptions provided non-alcoholic beverages are served as well. No hard liquor is permitted on our premises. Appropriate licenses must be attained by Anne Arundel County and copies must be provided to the office **at least 7 days before the event**. Please see our Policy on the use of Alcohol attached. Hosts of the reception are responsible for their guests' behavior.

What financial costs are to be contemplated?

St. Margaret's Parishioner	\$750
Non-Parishioner	\$1,500

Both rates include facility use, Altar Guild costs, Clergy and Musician costs.

Parishioner rates are offered to those who have been baptized, confirmed, or married at St. Margaret's going back three generations.

Wedding Consultants

The St. Margaret's Altar Guild has several members who provide assistance for all weddings that take place in our church. They are well versed in all of the logistical and liturgical details of weddings at St. Margaret's. **No outside wedding consultants will be permitted to participate or interfere with the rehearsal or wedding service.**

Photography

Photographs are an important memory of the wedding, but their taking must be unobtrusive and not detract from the seriousness of the religious ceremony. Upon arrival, the photographer(s) must consult with the clergy officiating and the Altar Guild member concerning the rules for photographs. **No flash photos may be taken during the ceremony itself.** Flash may be used for the procession provided that the equipment and photographers remain behind the congregation at the rear of the church. If video equipment is to be used, it must remain fixed in one place as decided by the clergy.

Photographs may be taken in the church after the ceremony and after the congregation has departed. After the service, photography is limited to 20 minutes from the time the congregation has departed the sanctuary so that the Altar Guild member can prepare the church for the following day's services.

Guests who are a part of the wedding congregation are not allowed to use flash photography during the service. The families should share this information with their friends. The couple must review the rules with the photographers and with all persons involved in the wedding.

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is held in the late afternoon or early evening the day before the wedding. It is an enormously important part of the wedding preparations. The rehearsal usually lasts about one hour and involves walking the entire wedding party through the service two or three times.

Every effort should be made to have all members of the wedding party as well as the organist, readers, honored guests, etc. in attendance and on time at the rehearsal so that the next day's events will go smoothly. A successful rehearsal will relieve much tension on the wedding day. If the rehearsal is on a Friday night, all participants should be warned about possible heavy traffic at that time. The Altar Guild member will be available for the entire rehearsal and will assist the wedding party with the logistics.

Wedding Flowers and Appointments

We anticipate that the florist will provide two floral arrangements, one for each end of the reredos shelf, the fixed shelf on the wall behind the altar. Given space available, it is suggested that containers not exceed 12 inches in width.

Completed arrangements are not to exceed 36 inches in height so as not to appear higher than the cross. No flowers can be placed on the altar itself. Bows are not to be used in arrangements for the reredos, and bows cannot be placed on the altar. **The reredos arrangements must be left in the church for the weekend church services.**

Flowers may be used elsewhere in the church or in the narthex as the couple desires and the wedding budget allows. Please make sure that the flowers are in place at least two hours prior to the ceremony. If there are directions for watering or other special care, please leave a written copy where the Altar Guild member will find it. Flowers for the wedding party, honored guests, etc. that are delivered to the church should be clearly labeled, preferably by name, so that the Altar Guild member can deliver them correctly and efficiently. **All flowers other than the arrangements on the reredos must be removed by the couple's family after the ceremony. No silk or artificial flowers may be used anywhere in the church.**

Flower attendants may carry a basket of flowers but may not distribute flower petals either within or outside of the church. Rice, birdseed, and confetti are also not permitted.

Aisle runners are not permitted.

The Altar Guild will provide **candles** for the altar and will light these candles before the ceremony. These candles represent the light of Christ; therefore, no other candles will be permitted, including unity candles, as that would create a confusion of symbols.

Only staff members of St. Margaret's Church may make adjustments to the musical instruments or any of the furnishings in the sanctuary.

If you need a recommendation for a florist, the church has used Michael Designs - <http://www.michaeldesignsflorist.com/>

What about music?

All weddings at St. Margaret's Church are ceremonies of worship honoring God and God's gift of love to all of humankind. To this end, all music chosen for the ceremony should conform to the spiritual nature of the service. Sacred music and selections from the classical repertoire that promote a sense of meditation and spiritual thought are appropriate to the ceremony, as are hymns.

Songs that celebrate human love are best sung or played at the reception and are not permitted to be used at St. Margaret's. These would commonly include songs from Broadway shows and the pop and country charts. We ask all couples, visiting clergy and musicians to respect our guidelines on this issue.

St. Margaret's follows the guidelines of the American Guild of Organists and gives the professional organist on the church staff the first right of refusal for all weddings. This means that the couple cannot ask another organist or any other type of musician(s) to play at the ceremony until the St. Margaret's organist has determined whether he or she wishes to play for the ceremony.

If the couple wishes to have a friend or relative contribute music to the ceremony, they may make a request to include that contribution as part of the ceremony. As long as the piece(s) selected are deemed appropriate by the clergy and church organist, there should be no issue about including those contributions.

If the St. Margaret's organist is unable to play at the wedding and/or declines the opportunity, the couple is free to choose another organist or pianist or set of professional musicians to provide the music. However, the St. Margaret's organist should be consulted directly by the musicians for approval of selections and instructions on how to unlock the instruments. Keys to the instruments will only be provided to musicians by the clergy or Altar Guild representative and must be returned to the same person at the end of the ceremony. A fee of \$50 will be assessed for each unreturned key.

The current Director of Music/Organist at St. Margaret's prefers to book weddings four to six months ahead of the date.

Musical selections to be decided:

- ❖ Prelude
- ❖ Seating of the Honored Guests
- ❖ Attendant's' Processional
- ❖ Main Processional
- ❖ Hymns (Optional)
- ❖ Offertory (Optional)
- ❖ Recessional.

TASK LIST FOR THE COUPLE FOR WEDDINGS AT ST. MARGARET'S

1. Information sheet completed and returned to church office as soon as possible.
2. Set meeting with clergy to include premarital counseling and ceremony planning. If there has been a divorce, bring copy of divorce decree.
3. Confirmation of dates, times and rooms reserved received.
4. Send checks for facility use to St. Margaret's Church, 1601 Pleasant Plains Rd., Annapolis, MD 21409. Make checks payable to "St. Margaret's Church" with "facility use" in the memo line. The Altar Guild fee may also be included in this check. Checks for the clergy and musician should be written directly to those staff members and delivered at the rehearsal or wedding.
5. Discussion with the Music Director (410.974.0200 ext. 20) about music for the wedding thirty to sixty days before the wedding.
6. Discussion with Altar Guild representative about logistics thirty days before the wedding.
7. Select readings for the service. If using family or friends for readers, provide the readings in large print so the readers may practice. If there is to be communion, inform the Wedding Consultant.
8. Obtain marriage license at least four weeks before the wedding and deliver to the church office at least two weeks before the wedding.
9. Send the necessary information for wedding service programs to the office at least three weeks before the wedding. If you are having the programs printed elsewhere, please send a draft to the clergy at least two weeks before the wedding.
10. Ensure that all participants attend the wedding rehearsal on time and that ushers are aware of their duties.
11. The day of the wedding, appoint a friend or relative to remove personal belongings from all areas used by wedding party. This should be done immediately after the wedding.

Policy on the Use of Alcohol at St. Margaret's Church

The use of alcohol on St. Margaret's Church property shall occur only with the expressed approval of St. Margaret's, only under the conditions specified, and only within the Guidelines detailed below. The lay governing body of St. Margaret's, the Vestry, approved these Guidelines at its regularly scheduled meeting of September 15, 2008. The Vestry and staff of St. Margaret's shall assume that approval for use carries with it the full intent of the approved party to adhere to both the spirit and intent of these Guidelines. These guidelines seek to:

- *promote social responsibility in the incidental use of alcoholic beverages;*
- *assure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations;*
- *assure that St. Margaret's is adequately protected under existing liability insurance policies.*

Guidelines

1. This policy specifically excludes sacramental events where communion wine is included as part of the service.
2. The use of alcoholic beverages shall be incidental to, and not a focus of, the event.
3. Consumption will be modest.
4. St. Margaret's will observe all applicable state, local and federal laws and regulations with respect to alcoholic beverages including and most especially the observance of Maryland's legal drinking age and refusing continued service to anyone who may be intoxicated or judged to have consumed enough.
5. Alcoholic beverages served will be limited to beer, wine and champagne. Hard liquor is not permitted.
6. Attractive non-alcoholic alternatives must be provided in equal quantities and accessibility.
7. Alcohol shall be available only with the presence of food.
8. The availability of alcoholic beverages may not be promoted or publicized as an attraction to the event.
9. The sale of alcoholic beverages on a "per drink" basis is not permitted. These beverages shall be included in the overall fee for the event.
10. The use of alcohol is not permitted during any activity primarily designed for persons under the legal drinking age as defined by the State of Maryland.
11. A special one-day liquor license must be obtained from the Anne Arundel County Board of License offices. This license must be obtained by church members and other groups using our property. Please read more about this process on the back of this page.

Anne Arundel County Liquor Board requirements for securing a Special One-day license.

Please observe the following as you complete the application for a special one day license:

1. All one day license applications must be typed or printed in ink.
2. All one day licenses must be issued to three (3) people belonging to the non-profit organization, club, society or association (no exceptions) and must contain the following information - a) hours of function, b) approximate number of guest attending the function, c) phone numbers on the three (3) people who sign the application, d) complete addresses on the three (3) applicants (zip codes, etc.), e) if there is to be any kind of entertainment at the function, you must state what type and their name and if this is the first time applying you must supply this office with: organizations, copy of the by-laws, wedding invitations, tickets, etc. pertaining to the event.
3. All one day license applications must be notarized on the front, signed by the property owner and witnessed on the back.
4. All one day license applications must be brought into the office of the Board of License Commissioners, 94 Franklin Street, Annapolis, Maryland, for processing at least one (1) week in advance of the event. Hours for processing applications are between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
5. All fees must be in the form of a check or money order. **No cash will be accepted!** Class C (beer, wine) fee is \$25.

More information is found at <http://www.aacounty.org/liquorBoard/index.cfm>.

Readings from the Old Testament and Apocrypha

These readings and all that follow are prescribed on page 426 of The Book of Common Prayer. One reading from each section may be selected. Except for the Gospel in some cases (see page 15), each can be read by a person selected by the couple. If desired, the Psalm can be read in unison by the congregation.

Genesis 1:26-28

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up--for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13. 8:6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

Tobit 8:5b-8

Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever. You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself." I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together. And Tobias and Sarah said, "Amen, Amen."

Readings from the Psalter

Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come
to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide
all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe
of him.

Psalm 127

Unless the Lord builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.
It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so
late; *

vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to
his beloved sleep.

Children are a heritage from the Lord, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame when he contends
with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128

Happy are they all who fear the Lord, *
and who follow in his ways!
You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your
house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your
table.
The man who fears the Lord *
shall thus indeed be blessed.
The Lord bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all
the days of your life.
May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

Readings from the New Testament

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind--yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

The Holy Gospel

If the service is to include the Holy Eucharist, the Gospel must be read by a Priest or Deacon.

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'" "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!" Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that our joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."



St. Margaret's
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Annapolis, Maryland ♦ Established 1692

1601 Pleasant Plains Road
 Annapolis, Maryland 21409
 (410) 974-0200 Phone (410) 757-5334 FAX
 info@st-margarets.org

Bride/Groom's Information

 Last Name First Name Middle

 First name to be used at ceremony DOB

 Home Address

 City State Zip Code

 Daytime Phone Cell Phone

 Primary Email Address

 Member of what church/denomination

 Yes No

 Baptized? Which church?

 Date of Baptism _____/_____/_____

 Single? Widowed? Divorced?

 Lead Attendant Flower Attendant # of Attendants

 Parent 1 Full Name (including maiden name if applicable)

 Parent 2 Full Name (including maiden name if applicable)

 Parent Address (including city, state, & zip)

 Wedding date Wedding time Rehearsal date Rehearsal time Expected # Attendees

 Officiant name Musician Name Communion?

() We have read and agreed to the St. Margaret's policies in the Wedding Customary.

Bride/Groom's Information

 Last Name First Name Middle

 First name to be used at ceremony DOB

 Home Address

 City State Zip Code

 Daytime Phone Cell Phone

 Primary Email Address

 Member of what church/denomination

 Yes No

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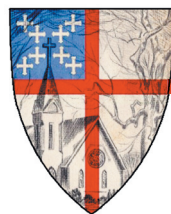
 Single? Widowed? Divorced?

 Lead Attendant Ringbearer # of Attendants

 Parent 1 Full Name (including maiden name if applicable)

 Parent 2 Full Name (including maiden name if applicable)

 Parent Address (including city, state, & zip)



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