

SAINT MARK'S ON THE HILL
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND



Weddings at St. Mark's

1620 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, Maryland 21208
410 486-3016 www.saintmarks.ang-md.org

Congratulations! You are interested in getting married at St. Mark's on the Hill. You will be making vows for a lifetime of commitment to one another and asking for God's blessing on your marriage.

Marriage in the Episcopal Church is a covenant between husband, wife, the faith community, and God. No one lives out their marriage in isolation. We all need a community who will support us in the years to come. We also believe that the married life of a faithful couple is an image of God's relationship with God's people and Christ's relationship with the church. We encourage all couples who are considering marriage to be married at the church that will be their faith home.

Your first step towards marriage at St. Mark's is to attend worship on Sunday morning and meet the clergy of the church. You will need some time to discover if St. Mark's is the faith home for you. The Episcopal Church is a balanced mixture of scripture, tradition, and reason. Our worship is led by the Book of Common Prayer, a text derived from the worship of the early Christian Church and the more ancient traditions of Judaism. The Blessing of a Marriage is found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 423. Please, read through the service together as you begin your marriage journey.

All weddings occur on Saturdays during the year, except the season of Lent. Lent is seven weeks of solemn preparation for the celebration of Easter and during this time there are no weddings or baptisms. Prior to scheduling your wedding, you must meet with the rector to ensure that the church and the clergy are available. A rehearsal for the wedding will be held on the Friday before the wedding. It is very important that the wedding party, and other participants attend the rehearsal. A well rehearsed group creates a relaxed atmosphere for your wedding day.

Civil Law

Maryland law requires that you obtain a marriage license from Clerk of the Court of Baltimore County, 401 Bosley Ave. Towson, MD between 8:30AM and 4:00PM. A fee of \$35 cash is required at time of issue. For more information call 410 887-2607 or visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov

Church Law

In preparation for marriage, you must meet with the priest for a series of four sessions (five if this is a remarriage for either person) counseling sessions. This is an opportunity to discuss the expectations, joys, and challenges of your future together. If either person is being remarried, the priest must obtain permission from the bishop. The couple must discuss the reasons for the divorce and the care for any children from the first marriage. The priest must be satisfied that the couple is prepared to begin the marriage journey together. At the final session the couple and the priest will plan the order of worship for the wedding ceremony.

Cost

We do not charge for the sacraments of the church, thus there is no fixed "wedding fee." We do believe that the professionals who provide music should be paid for their work. The normal fee for our organist is \$150. If you hire any other soloists or musicians, you must compensate them appropriately. It is customary to make a donation to St. Mark's Church and this money is used to serve the poor and offer emergency assistance to those in need. This is not a requirement, but a decision for you to make as a couple.

Contact the Rector

To discuss your plans for marriage, please contact Mother Dawson at the parish office, 410 486-3016. You may also email her at revdawson@comcast.net. Many blessings on your journey together and we look forward to celebrating with you!