

About St. George's



St. George's Episcopal Church
23802 Avenida de la Carlota
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949-837-4530
www.stgeorgeparish.org

For additional information about reserving the church or Bourne Hall, about fees or other guidelines, please contact the church office for a more detailed wedding packet.

Frequently asked questions about weddings at St. George's Episcopal Church



Dearly Beloved



A Word About Marriage ...
We believe that marriage is a lifelong, spiritual commitment. Our Book of Common Prayer (1979), says it is "not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was intended by God."

Marriage is one of the most challenging and rewarding of human relationships, and 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 marry at St. George's, 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.

If you're still interested in having your wedding at St. George's after you've read this booklet carefully, come to church with your fiancé. Speak to a clergy person, who will ask you:

1. Has any other Episcopal priest refused to marry you?
2. Is this a first marriage for you both?

FAQs about weddings at St. George's

Do I have to belong to St. George's to be married there?

It is preferable that at least one person be a member or regularly attend worship. It is necessary to be a member or to be an Episcopalian to be married here.

Who performs weddings at St. George's?

All marriages are performed by St. George's clergy, occasionally assisted by another member of the clergy (Episcopal, or of another denomination or faith), at the Rector's discretion.

What if I've been divorced?

Episcopal canon law requires a minimum of thirty days between the official declaration to the Church of intent to marry and the wedding. If one or both of the persons is divorced, the clergy must obtain the permission of the Bishop of Los Angeles in order to perform the marriage. If there has been more than one divorce for either of the persons, the Bishop may request a personal interview with the couple.

Are there other requirements?

Premarital counseling is required of all couples married at St. George's. In most cases the clergy person presiding at the marriage will provide counseling. In some cases the couple may be referred to a counselor. If the couple resides elsewhere, appropriate counseling may be arranged closer to their residence.

Can I select my own music?

Music for the service is chosen by the couple in consultation with the St. George's Church organist, who will normally play for all weddings and will arrange for soloists and instrumentalists as desired. Any unusual musical requests must be submitted to the Rector for approval.

What does the wedding guild do?

Wedding guild members are volunteers who love weddings and want to ensure that every wedding at St. George's is beautiful and proceeds as smoothly as possible. They are available to offer their expertise and guidance about basic guidelines, flowers, decorations and other logistical questions prior to the wedding, and will assist at the rehearsal and actual wedding day. They will coordinate efforts with professional wedding coordinators.

Is Holy Communion required?

Prospective newlyweds can choose to include Holy Communion as part of the wedding rite, depending on their preferences and needs. It is not a requirement, however.

Are there guidelines for photographers & videographers?

Still photography and video are permitted with certain important restrictions. All photographers and videographers must report to the officiating clergy before the service for instructions. Flash photography, whether by the professional photographer or wedding guests, is not permitted during the service.

What decorations are allowed?

The use of confetti, rice or birdseed is prohibited, as is the release of balloons. If flower petals are to be sprinkled in the aisle, protective runners must be used. St. George's Church is a beautiful worship space, and little in the way of extra adornment is necessary. Altar candles may be supplemented with others, if clergy approve. Seven branch candles and pew candles are available. Ribbons on pews are also available. Other decorations may be added, if appropriate and pending clergy approval.