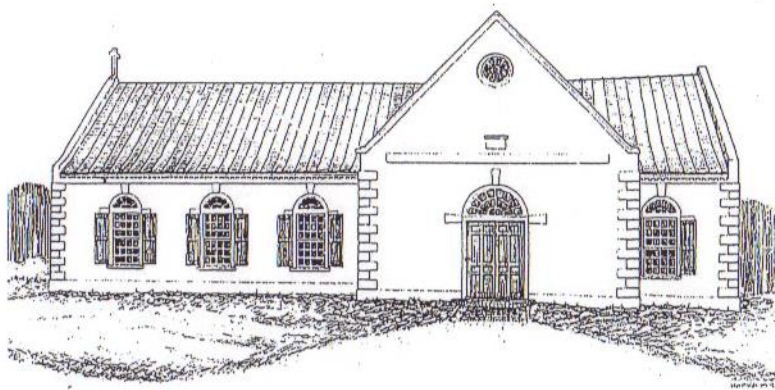


The Wedding Booklet
for
The Celebration and Blessing
of Holy Matrimony



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY BY THE DIOCESE.....	2
STATEMENT ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY BY THE RECTOR.....	2
THE CANONS RELATING TO HOLY MATRIMONY.....	3
GETTING MARRIED AT OLD ST. ANDREW’S	4
THE FIRST STEPS	5
COUNSELING.....	5
PLANNING THE LITURGY.....	6
FACILITIES.....	6
THE HOLY MATRIMONY LICENSE.....	7
ALTAR GUILD COORDINATOR.....	7
FLOWERS, DECORATIONS, RICE, ETC.....	7
MUSIC.....	8
WEDDING BULLETINS.....	9
PHOTOGRAPHY: STILL AND VIDEO.....	10
THE REHEARSAL.....	10
THE WEDDING DAY.....	11
FEES.....	12

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STATEMENT FROM THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

“We stand firm under the authority of Holy Scripture”

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that “all states must license Holy Matrimony between two people of the same sex” and “recognize a Holy Matrimony between two people of the same sex when their Holy Matrimony was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.” Despite this change, the Diocese of South Carolina continues to affirm the historic position of the Christian Church: that God has two states of life for His people, singleness or Holy Matrimony – the joining together of one man and one woman into a holy union. By affirming this position, we stand firmly under the authority of Holy Scripture, in continuity with the two thousand year history of the church, and in accord with the vast majority of Christians around the world. Therefore, it is clear that while the Supreme Court may be changing the civil definition of Holy Matrimony, it has no authority over Holy Matrimony and the Church’s blessing of the union between husband and wife.

The Bible envisions Holy Matrimony as the life long, exclusive union of one man and one woman. While Christians, like others, experience failure in realizing this vision, it is nevertheless the standard we profess and toward which we strive. We believe that Holy Matrimony, like all areas of life, can be redeemed, and that by God’s grace all married people can be enabled to live into its unique calling.

The full consequences of the Supreme Court’s cultural and legal innovation have yet to be seen, and will be tested over time. It is our strong belief that this same Constitution, to which they have appealed, must protect the rights of all people to the free exercise of religion. In the light of this conviction, the Diocese of South Carolina will faithfully conduct its ministry in accordance with our beliefs, trusting that this freedom will be upheld.

Statement on the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony by the Rector

Christian Holy Matrimony is the most sacred and enduring relationship into which two people can voluntarily enter. In the words of the service of Holy Matrimony from the Book of Common Prayer:

“Holy Matrimony is not to be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purpose for which it was instituted by God.”

It is our purpose at Old St Andrew’s, as members of the Church and as servants of Christ, to do everything within our power to ensure that your Christian Holy Matrimony will be a happy and successful one. Over the years the Church has adopted certain standards and regulations in regard to Holy Matrimony, some of which are contained in this manual. Others of these we will discuss in our premarital counseling sessions.

Please study this document carefully. Feel free to call upon any of the clergy or lay staff members if we can be of help in any way. We pray that your Holy Matrimony will be truly God-centered and that you will find in it a new life of challenge, growth and joy.

Prayers Before Holy Matrimony

O God, our Heavenly Father, we pray for thy grace and blessing as we take upon ourselves the sacred vows of Christian Holy Matrimony. Let our love for each other be pure and enduring; give us understanding of each other’s minds and needs; help us to share our joys and sorrows; and keep us ever faithful to our promise to live together according to thy will till death shall separate us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O gracious and everlasting God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of Holy Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may 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 of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Canons Relating to Holy Matrimony

TITLE I

CANON 18

Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony

Sec. 1. Every Member of the Clergy of this Church shall conform to the laws of the State governing the creation of the civil status of Holy Matrimony, and also to the laws of the Church governing the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

Sec. 2. Before solemnizing a Holy Matrimony the Member of the Clergy shall have ascertained:

- (a) That both parties have the right to contract a Holy Matrimony according to the laws of the State.

- (b) That both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.
- (c) That both parties freely and knowingly consent to such Holy Matrimony, without fraud, coercion, mistakes as to identity of a partner, or mental reservation.
- (d) That at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism.
- (e) That both parties have been instructed as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by the Member of the Clergy, or that they have both received such instruction from persons known by the Member of the Clergy to be competent and responsible.

Sec. 3. No Member of the Clergy of this Church shall solemnize any Holy Matrimony unless the following procedures are complied with:

- (a) The intention of the parties to contract Holy Matrimony shall have been signified to the Member of the clergy at least thirty days before the service of solemnization; *Provided*, that for weighty cause, this requirement may be dispensed with if one of the parties is a member of the congregation of the Member of the Clergy, or can furnish satisfactory evidence of responsibility. In case the thirty days' notice is waived, the Member of the Clergy shall report such action in writing to the Bishop immediately.
- (b) There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.
- (c) The Member of the Clergy shall record in the proper register the date and place of the Holy Matrimony, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residences, and their Church status; the witness and the Member of the Clergy shall sign the record.
- (d) The Member of the Clergy shall have required that the parties sign the following declaration: We A.B. and C.D., desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold Holy Matrimony to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. "We believe that the union of husband and wife, 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." "And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."

Sec. 4. It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any Holy Matrimony.

Getting Married at Old St. Andrew's

The Rector is in charge of all weddings at Old St. Andrew's. The liturgy for the Celebration and Blessing of Holy Matrimony in the *Book of Common Prayer* (pages 423-432) includes scripture readings, prayers, and exchange of vows.

The clergy receives many requests for the celebration of Holy Matrimony. In order to be married at Old St. Andrew's:

- The authorized liturgies of the Church must be used as well as an Anglican priest or co-officiant.
- If either bride or groom has been previously married, the Bishop of the Diocese must give his permission. The clergy must see the Final Decree of Divorce. (Consult the clergy for additional information.)

- Either the bride, the groom, or one of their parents must be a parishioner of Old St. Andrew's for at least one year prior to the wedding date. At his/her discretion, in exceptional circumstances, the Rector may make an exception.

Weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent.

The First Steps

The couple should make an appointment with the clergy in order to secure a date for the service. While Canon law requires a minimum of thirty (30) days notice to be given, it is advisable to make arrangements for a wedding as far in advance as possible to avoid scheduling difficulties. An advance notice of at least six months is recommended.

Please note that your wedding is not "reserved" on our books unless and until all fees are paid (Page 12).

If either bride or groom has been previously married, the Bishop of the Diocese must give his permission at least thirty (30) days prior to the desired wedding date. The clergy must see the Final Decree of Divorce at the first meeting with the couple. (Consult the clergy for additional information.)

Please do not make plans, especially those which involve any expense to you, until you have gained the permission of the Rector to have your Holy Matrimony ceremony at Old St. Andrew's Parish Church and you have secured a reserved date. The church office can advise you of the availability of the church for the dates you are considering, but only after the Rector has granted permission for the ceremony will a date be reserved on the calendar.

If the assistance of a minister other than our clergy is desired, please inform the officiating priest during premarital instruction. Non-Anglican ministers and Anglican clergy from outside the Diocese of South Carolina must receive approval from our Bishop in order to participate.

Counseling

The Canons of the Church require pre-marital instruction for couples to be married. This instruction covers many topics of interest to a couple entering into Holy Matrimony. These sessions are arranged at the convenience of the officiating clergy and the bride and groom.

If the bride or groom has not been married before, they must attend four counseling sessions; six if either has been divorced. In some cases, after initial consultation, arrangements may be made for a couple residing out of state to receive counseling from clergy in the community where they live.

Planning the Liturgy

The Holy Matrimony rite of Christian Holy Matrimony is not only a witness to a covenant of life-long union of fidelity and love between a man and a woman, but also God's benediction upon that covenant; therefore, the rite should be conducted in the church with an Anglican priest or co-officiant. As to the rite, there are some options which a couple may select; but it should be borne in mind that the form of the service itself is prescribed by the Church, and neither the priest nor the couple is free to alter the service beyond the permissible options as found within the *Book of Common Prayer*. There are several options that the bride and groom need to discuss with the officiating clergy.

- What readings would you like read (as many as three: one from the Old Testament or Apocrypha, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospel). Suggested readings are found on page 426 in the *Book of Common Prayer*. While the officiating clergy will read the Gospel reading, please ensure you have readers for the additional readings.
- Do you want Holy Communion offered as a part of the service? If so, Rite I or II?
- If you desire Holy Communion, do you have someone to serve as chalice bearer (must be licensed)? If not, please let the office know, so they may schedule someone.
- Would you like the officiating clergy to give a homily?

Facilities

Old St. Andrew's Parish Church can accommodate a maximum of 200 guests in the sanctuary. This includes the use of the balcony for guests. A bride's room is available for the bride and her attendants to dress. The groom and his party are encouraged to arrive at the church dressed in their wedding attire. All personal belongings are to be removed from the rooms prior to leaving the premises after the ceremony. All valuables should be locked in the trunk of a car, and Old St. Andrew's cannot be responsible for the loss of any personal belongings. Except as provided below for a wedding reception, no food or beverages (other than water) are allowed in the Parish House including sodas and alcoholic beverages.

Gilchrist Hall in our Parish House is available for receptions for a fee (see Page 12). The bridal couple must provide all food, beverages, linen, china, crystal, flatware, and silver. Beer and wine at the reception may be permitted with advance consent of the Rector. No "hard" alcohol may be brought onto the premises. The premises must be left in ready condition for the next scheduled church activity. Additional sexton's fee of \$200 will be charged. All receptions must end and the premises cleared no later than 11 p.m.

If a caterer is hired, the caterer may use the refrigerators in the kitchen if space is available and ice from the ice machine. The caterer may NOT use the dishwasher, coffee makers, convection oven or stove except to keep food warm until it is served. The caterer is to clean up the entire reception area and kitchen except for the furniture and floors. Church staff is not available to clean. Neither Old St. Andrew's nor the sexton is responsible for the property of the wedding party or the caterer.

Nursery facilities may be used with permission.

The Holy Matrimony License

The Bride and Groom must obtain a Holy Matrimony license from the State of South Carolina. You must bring all copies of the license to the rehearsal. These documents will be signed by the priest immediately after the ceremony, a copy given to the bridegroom, and a copy mailed by our office to the appropriate authority.

Altar Guild Coordinator

The church office will put you in touch with the Altar Guild Coordinator. She works under the direction of the clergy and she will work closely with the couple in the understanding of the wedding customs at Old St. Andrew's. She will be available for consultation during the planning period and will attend the rehearsal and the wedding to assist the clergy.

Outside bridal consultants, professional or otherwise, while helpful in some areas of the wedding preparations, will not be permitted to have any role in either the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony at Old St. Andrew's, except with prior permission of the Rector and Alter Guild Coordinator.

Flowers, Decorations, Rice, Etc.

The beauty and dignity of our church building is such that little decoration is needed. Flowers for the altar should conform to the guidelines of what is appropriate for Old St. Andrew's particularly as to the size of our two (2) brass altar vases. The arrangements may not be taller than the altar cross. The couple must leave the flowers for Sunday morning services. Flowers may be given in memory of or in thanksgiving for a person or event. If you order pew markers, they must be attached with elastic bands or ribbons. This is very important due to the historic nature of the church. Any other flowers are not needed in the church, except those bouquets carried by and flowers worn by members of the wedding party. Flower girls are not allowed to drop live or artificial petals on the church floor. Other decorations such as additional candleholders, aisle runners, potted plants, palms, or "unity" candles are not allowed.

Flower Delivery

The altar flowers for your wedding can be delivered to Old St. Andrew's only during church office hours which are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our office is closed on Fridays. Please make sure to let your florist know. Flowers for the wedding party may be delivered the wedding day no more than two hours prior to the wedding.

Candles

Candles for the altar are provided by the Altar Guild, and these candles will remain in the normal positions on the Altar. Additional candelabra, including “unity candles,” are not permitted.

Rice, Etc.

The throwing of rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti, or any other item is prohibited in the Church or anywhere on the grounds. No “runners” may be used in the center aisle. Animals, even favorite pets, are not permitted.

Music

The Holy Matrimony Service is a service of worship. The purpose of the music is to invoke God’s presence and blessing, to praise God, and to highlight Christ’s love for the church as the model for love and fidelity in Holy Matrimony. Texts should praise God, highlight the steadfast love of Christ for his Church and invoke God’s presence and blessing.

Music is chosen based on conversations between the couple and the organist. Because the Rite of Holy Matrimony is a worship service, secular music is not appropriate. All music must be approved by the church organist and the Rector. The music should be sacred and appropriate for a worship service. No secular music such as “Here Comes the Bride” may be played or sung as part of the wedding ceremony. Recorded music is not allowed. The list below has been pre-approved, but it is not exhaustive, and therefore the organist should be consulted.

Suggested Processional/Recessional Music:

Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel
Hornpipe	G.F. Handel
Prince of Denmark’s March	Jeremiah Clarke
Festive Prelude	Zipoli
Trumpet Tune	Henry Purcell
Rondeau	Mouret
Air in G	J.S. Bach
Thanks Be to God	G.F. Handel
Voluntary	John Stanley
Fanfare	Lemmons

The organist fee includes:

1. A consultation to choose the Processional and Recessional and to discuss other music such as solos, hymns, etc.;
2. Playing for the Wedding Rehearsal
3. The Actual Wedding. The organist plays 20-30 minutes of pre-service music which she or he will select (unless plans have been made with the bridal couple). Additional rehearsals for soloists are an additional fee. The fee is payable at or before the rehearsal.

Other musicians: Unless specified at the time that the church is reserved, the church organist will be the primary musician for the wedding service. All music chosen is ultimately the discretion of the Rector. Everyone wants their wedding service to be memorable and unique. Soloists, instrumentalists, or even a choir enhance the music of the occasion even more. Any additional musicians or soloists may be selected with the approval of our organist, who will rehearse with them prior to the wedding. Financial arrangements with guest musicians must be made directly with them.

Wedding Bulletins

Old St. Andrew's will provide service bulletins for your wedding upon advance request. Please arrange this with the church office well in advance. Bulletins must be finalized three weeks prior to the wedding. Please contact the church office if you are interested in having bulletins printed. The bulletin is printed in black ink on 8 ½ by 11 cream paper, double-sided and folded in half. If you wish to outsource your bulletin to another printer, please let the church office see a proof before going to press.

Photography

Before the service of Holy Matrimony, any photographs to be taken inside the church must be completed no less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled time of the service.

The photographer must remain in the side transept, the back of the church or the balcony, and flash photography is not allowed prior or during the ceremony in the Church. The photographer must have a silent camera such that noise is not made if photographs are taken.

Videotaping of the ceremony may be done only from the balcony.

After the ceremony, you will have a maximum of thirty (30) minutes for photography. Guests may remain in the church; however, the wedding party is encouraged to go as quickly as possible back inside the church for pictures. Please be reminded that your guests will be waiting for you at the reception and that our volunteer wedding coordinators must ready the church for Sunday services prior to their being able to go home. Therefore, the Church must be vacated and all photography completed within thirty (30) minutes after the service concludes.

The Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal must be scheduled with the office and clergy, and usually takes place the day before the ceremony and lasts approximately one (1) hour. Normally, rehearsals should not be scheduled before 6 p.m. All members of the wedding party, including children, are expected to participate in the rehearsal. Please remind your wedding party that afternoon traffic on Ashley River Road is very heavy. Please allow plenty of time so that everyone is on time and ready to begin at the appointed hour.

The officiating clergy will make plans ahead of time for a smooth rehearsal. The clergy will officiate at both the rehearsal and the wedding. Please bring your Holy Matrimony license to the rehearsal so that the bride and groom, along with witnesses, may sign the parish wedding register and Holy Matrimony license.

Please complete the Wedding Planner information sheet, making special note of the number of pews needed for family members.

Special instructions will be given to the wedding party as to arrival times for the day of the wedding.

Wedding Day

If you plan to dress at Old St. Andrew's, you should arrive at least one (1) to one and a half (1 1/2) hours before the ceremony. If you dress elsewhere, you should arrive thirty (30) minutes before the ceremony.

It is suggested that you pack all belongings before the ceremony so that they may be picked up quickly as you leave for your reception. It may be helpful for you to assign someone to assist with this.

The Church and Parish House will be open two (2) hours prior to the wedding for your use and for delivery of flowers and for photography. Please do not plan to arrive more than two (2) hours prior to the service. Please remind your florist that flowers for the altar, if not delivered on Thursday, should be delivered within this time.

Fees

All fees must be paid in full before your wedding date can be reserved on the church calendar. Please write one check payable to Old St. Andrew's.

Church Use Fee

Member	\$1,250
Includes:	
<i>Music</i>	\$300
<i>Clergy fee</i>	\$500
<i>Sexton fee</i>	\$100
<i>Altar Guild fee</i>	\$100
<i>Administrative Fee</i>	\$200
<i>Pre Marriage Online Inventory</i>	\$ 50

Non-Member*	\$2,250
Includes:	
<i>Church Use</i>	\$1,000
<i>Music</i>	\$300
<i>Clergy fee</i>	\$500
<i>Sexton fee</i>	\$100
<i>Altar guild fee</i>	\$100
<i>Administrative Fee</i>	\$200
<i>Pre Marriage Online Inventory</i>	\$ 50

*Applies unless either the bride or groom, or their parents have been members for at least one year prior to their wedding date.

Please contact the organist if you desire additional musicians at your wedding.

Parish Hall Use Fee (for Reception)

Member	\$200
Includes:	
<i>Sexton fee</i>	\$200
Non-Member	\$500
Includes:	
Gilchrist Hall Use	\$300
<i>Sexton fee</i>	\$200