

Wedding Instructions



Episcopal
Church of the Ascension

701 Orange Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33756

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION WEDDING INSTRUCTIONS

These guidelines are for those planning to be married at Church of the Ascension. May Jesus bless your love with the power of His Holy Spirit!

The initial contact about marriage should be with the **Parish Secretary** & the **Rector**. You or your fiancé must be an active Episcopalian with a personal family history or association with Church of the Ascension. “Active” church members are those who are regular in attendance at services, & who are a giver of record to the financial support of the parish.

Weddings held in the Episcopal Church are governed by Canon law & traditions of long-standing at Church of the Ascension. A church wedding is any wedding solemnized by a priest of the Episcopal Church.

It is the tradition at Ascension that all weddings take place in the church building or on the grounds of the church. Home weddings are discouraged except in extenuating circumstances.

Please Consider the Following When Planning Your Wedding



- **The Rector** must have a minimum of 30 days notice of your intention to be married. This requirement is a Canon law of the Episcopal Church. The wedding date is subject to his approval. Please contact the **Parish Secretary** to set up an appointment, 727.447.3469 ext. 203 or maggiet@churchhofascension.org.
-No weddings may be scheduled for Christmas Week or Holy Week.
-The Rector cannot give consent to solemnize the marriage of any couple whom he has not met. He must meet the couple before the wedding date can be finalized. Invitations should not be ordered, nor plans made involving the clergy or the use of church facilities before the Rector is consulted.
-If the bride or groom has been divorced, it is necessary to obtain the consent of the bishop of this diocese before a priest may marry the couple. The process takes four to six weeks to complete.
-The Church also offers a service called **The Blessing of a Civil Marriage**.
- The couple must have three counseling sessions with the Rector, or a priest on staff. It is your responsibility to call & arrange for these meetings. If you are not available for counseling at Ascension, arrangements can be made with another Episcopal priest who may be located closer to you.
- It is within the discretion of the Rector to decline to solemnize any marriage for good reason.
-As soon as the date has been approved, please fill out & return a **Wedding Information Form** (scroll down) along with the **Wedding Fee of \$800 to confirm your date on the church calendar**.
- Clergy & musicians, other than church staff, should not be invited to participate without first consulting with the **Organist**.
- To assist in your planning, please contact the Clergy, **Wedding Coordinator** & Organist at least 90 days prior to the wedding.

The Wedding Coordinator

- After the Rector, the next stop in planning your wedding is the Wedding Coordinator. She will tell you about church customs, & will ensure the smooth flow of your ceremony by coordinating with the Altar Guild, the sexton & other church staff. The Wedding Coordinator is also present at the rehearsal & the wedding to assist the clergy & the wedding party in preparation for the ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator is a member of the staff & is an integral part of your wedding. Please make an appointment with **Sharon Meek** at dme348@aol.com --- as soon as your wedding has been scheduled on the church calendar.

ASCENSION WEDDING INFORMATION FORM

Date of Application _____ **DATE OF WEDDING** _____

BRIDE'S FULL NAME _____

Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Maiden Widow Divorcèè Number of Previous Marriages _____

Baptized _____ Denomination _____

Confirmed _____ Denomination _____

Communicant _____ Denomination _____

Father's Name _____

Father's Address _____

Mother's Name _____

Mother's Address _____

GROOM'S FULL NAME _____

Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Bachelor Widower Divorcèè Number of Previous Marriages _____

Baptized _____ Denomination _____

Confirmed _____ Denomination _____

Communicant _____ Denomination _____



Father's Name _____

Father's Address _____

Mother's Name _____

Mother's Address _____

Couple's address after wedding _____

Home phone _____

The couple wish to remain on church's Active List _____

DATE OF CEREMONY _____ Time _____

Number of guests expected _____ Celebrant _____

Date and time of rehearsal _____

Photographer name and phone _____

Florist name and phone _____



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