

The Celebration and  
Blessing of Marriage  
at

St. Saviour Episcopal Parish

Planning for the year 2018

41 Mount Desert Street  
Bar Harbor ME 04609  
(207) 288-4215  
[info@stsaviours.me](mailto:info@stsaviours.me)  
[www.stsaviours.me](http://www.stsaviours.me)

# The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage At St. Saviour Episcopal Parish

## **Who May Be Married at St. Saviour**

Any couple may marry one another in St. Saviour Parish, provided that they seek the blessing of God and the support of the Christian church for their commitment, and that they meet the requirements of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the laws of the State of Maine. Further, all couples who are legally married in the sight of a state of the United States of America and meet the above expectations may have their civil marriage blessed at St. Saviour.

To be married by an Episcopal priest, one of the couple must be a baptized Christian, though neither is required to be an Episcopalian. If either person has been married before or has been a party to a domestic partnership or civil union, the consent of the Bishop may be required for remarriage. In every case, the Rector will meet with the couple for a pastoral interview before the wedding is placed on the parish calendar.

## **Marriage Preparation**

Three to six pre-marital counseling sessions (approximately 1-2 hours each) are normally required. These will cover the significance of marriage in the Church, dynamics of a creative marriage, issues which may affect a particular marriage, and practical details of planning the service, including details about flowers, photographers, etc. In-person counseling is the preferred norm, but it may be possible to conduct some counseling sessions via videoconference for couples who live a long distance from Bar Harbor,

Alternately, if a couple is from away they may, after meeting with the Rector, meet with their local clergy for counseling. In these cases, the couple is responsible for making the arrangements and seeing that a recommendation is sent to the Rector by the counseling clergy.

## **The Marriage Service**

While the couple are the ministers of the sacrament of marriage, marriage in the church is primarily about God's work in their lives and their vow to live together in a holy union blessed by God and witnessed by the church community.

The Episcopal Church has authorized three liturgies for marriage: "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage" on page 423 of the *Book of Common Prayer* ([Link:BCPMarriage](#)), "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2," which is essentially a gender-neutral version of the BCP ceremony ([Link:BCPMarriage2](#)), and the more recent "The Witnessing

and Blessing of a Marriage ([Link:EOWMarriage](#)). Episcopal clergy are not authorized to solemnize marriages or unions using other forms. Within these liturgies and with the advice and approval of the Rector, the couple is invited to choose readings, music, readers, and other particulars of the service, including whether or not to celebrate Holy Eucharist as part of the liturgy.

The Officiant at weddings at St. Saviour is normally the Rector or designee of the Rector. A couple may request that the Rector invite another minister to officiate in lieu of or in addition to the Rector; that invitation will be made by the Rector at his/her discretion, and the standard fee will not be reduced if another minister officiates.

Weddings are not ordinarily celebrated on Sundays, nor during the season of Lent.

### **Music Selection**

Music for the service is normally provided by the professional music staff of the parish. The parish organist reserves right of first refusal for all weddings, and the listed fee is to be paid to the organist even if he or she agrees to allow another organist to play for the wedding. Other musicians and vocalists may take part in the wedding when agreed to by the parish organist, but additional fees may be charged for coordination with outside musicians. The couple is responsible to meet with the organist to discuss music to be played.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is first and foremost a service of Christian worship; music which would not be appropriate for a public worship service is not appropriate for a wedding. Decisions regarding music will be made by the parish music staff.

### **Flowers and Decorations**

Flowers for the altar and chancel should be coordinated with St. Saviour's Flower Guild. Several local florists are familiar with our church; if the couple choose to employ a florist from away, it is their responsibility to put the florist in touch with the flower guild. Flowers are customarily left on the altar for the following Sunday, with thanks to the couple in the church bulletin.

Other decorations (e.g. swags, runners, torches, etc.) must be approved by the Rector beforehand.

### **Marriage License**

It is the responsibility of the couple to obtain a marriage license from the city or town where they plan to record their marriage at least a week before the ceremony. This license should be brought to the rehearsal, or sent to the Parish Office in advance.

## Fees

Fees are a necessary aspect of the ministry of St. Saviour Parish. They support outreach, worship, service, education and pastoral care, as well as personnel, maintenance and cleaning. Fees include the planning, rehearsal, and wedding services of the Rector, Organist, Altar Guild, Sexton, and Administrator. The standard fee includes the use of the church for the wedding rehearsal the day before the service, as well as the use of the Rectory Common and Parish Hall for dressing the day of the service. Longer times will need to be contracted a month in advance. The Parish Hall and Cloister Yard of the church are available for receptions at additional cost, subject to the parish Building Use policy and fee schedule.

### Standard Fee: \$1,575

At the Rector's discretion, published fees may be reduced or waived for members of the parish and for the immediate family of members. If you are able, please consider making an additional offering of thanks to the ministry of your own choosing.

A deposit of \$500 is due upon application to reserve the date and time. All remaining fees are due one month before the wedding.

### Additional fees:

Organist coordinating with additional musicians ..... \$50/hour

Use of the kitchen and Parish Hall for a reception ..... \$400

*(Additional cleaning if required)* ..... \$25/hour

All fees are payable to..... **St. Saviour Episcopal Parish**

### Making a Beginning

Return the information form to the parish office at least 90 days before the proposed wedding date. When the application has been received, the Rector will telephone and arrange for an interview with the couple. The ceremony is placed on the parish calendar after that meeting has happened and the deposit has been received.

The Rev. Timothy R. Fleck  
Music Director: Daniel S. Pyle  
Administrator: Margaret Stewart

Tim@MDI-Episcopal.org  
Dan@MDI-Episcopal.org  
info@stsaviours.me