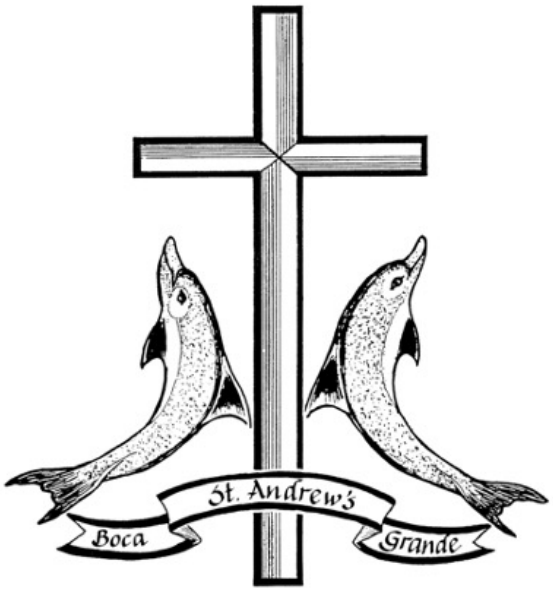
THE BLESSING AND CELEBRATION
OF A MARRIAGE



A Wedding Customary

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

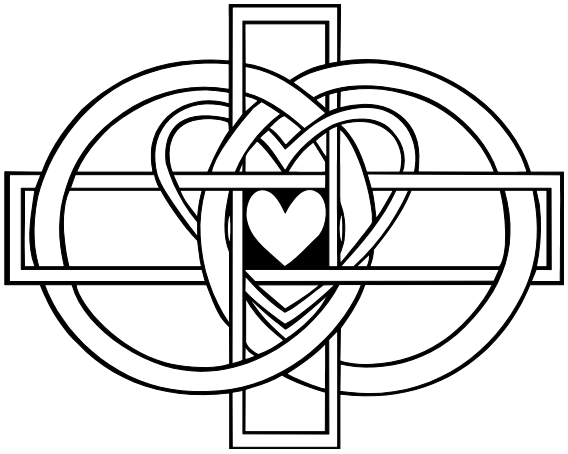
PO Box 272
Boca Grande, FL 33921

Telephone 941-964-2257
Fax 866-570-5715

Email: mail@standrewsbocagrande.org
Website: http://standrewsbocagrande.org

WELCOME!

We are pleased that you have inquired about celebrating your marriage at St. Andrew's. We hope your wedding will be a memorable and spiritually enriching occasion for you and your family and friends who will witness it.



"*Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God.*"

The Book of Common Prayer, page 422.

In the Episcopal Church, marriage is celebrated within the context of the Church's life of prayer, worship, and witness; the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer and the Canons of the Church set the foundational norms for the solemnization of Holy Matrimony. Based on these norms and on pastoral experience, we have established the following guidelines in an attempt to answer important questions that the couple or their families might ask. Inevitably, other questions will arise and can be discussed during the planning process.

General Information

As weddings at St. Andrew's are normally celebrated for the St. Andrew's family, this church is available primarily to members and their extended families, and those who seek to become a part of the St. Andrew's community. Members and Friends of St. Andrew's may on occasion sponsor the wedding of a non-member.

At least one of the persons to be married must have been baptized, though not necessarily in the Episcopal Church.

Saturday weddings can have a start time of no later than 5:30 p.m.

Weddings are not held during Holy Week or on Christmas. Weddings are not normally scheduled during Lent.

It is the custom of St. Andrew's to celebrate weddings in the church. Exceptions may be discussed with the clergy.

The liturgy of the wedding ceremony should conform to the canons and norms of the Episcopal Church and the Book of Common Prayer.

The church seats 140 people comfortably. According to the fire code, the total number of people allowed in the church is 144.

It is the prerogative of the St. Andrew's clergy to officiate at all weddings. Other clergy may assist with the consent of the Rector.

If there has been a previous marriage please inform the officiating clergy in your initial conversation.



Scheduling and Counseling

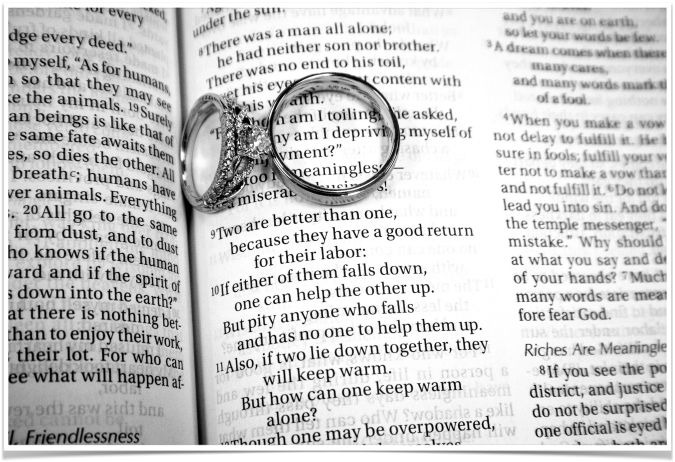
Call the church and speak to the office staff at (941) 964-2257 to schedule an appointment for the couple.

The earlier you call, the likelier it will be that your date can be accommodated. It is also important to establish a relationship with the officiating clergy.

This Wedding Customary details the guidelines for weddings at St. Andrew's. On our website you will find several questionnaires concerning your church history and requesting basic information and details about your wedding. Please return these forms as quickly as possible.

The forms are also available on our website: http://standrewsbocagrande.org

Premarital counseling is required by canon law and may be scheduled with St. Andrew's clergy or by an appropriate professional in the city where the couple resides. At the conclusion of the counseling sessions (usually three meetings) the officiating priest and the couple will make final decisions concerning the actual wedding ceremony.



The Marriage License

A Marriage License may be obtained from any county in the state of Florida. It is valid for 60 days after it has been issued. Options for Clerk of the Court offices:

Charlotte County	350 E. Marion Avenue Port Charlotte, FL 339520	(941) 505-4716
Lee County	2115 Second Street P.O. Box 2278 Fort Myers, FL 33902	(239) 533-5007

Planning the Service

First Contact

Your initial communication should be with Robin Milona, the Parish Administrator. She can answer questions and begin a wedding file for you. She can be reached at (941) 964-2257 extension 3 or email (standrewes@gmail.com)

Music

The organist and Minister of Music of St. Andrew's is Dr. Glen Olsen. He can be reached at (941) 964-2257 (olsenglen@aol.com). He is the contact for all music related to weddings at St. Andrew's. As great care needs to be taken in selecting the music, please schedule a time well in advance of the wedding to talk with him. Glen can advise you on choice of music and, if desired, find local instrumentalists. Please note that neither taped music nor popular romantic music is appropriate. The organist and officiating clergy are the final word on suitable sacred music.

Readings

Please click on this link of recommended Scripture for your ceremony:
http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/SpecServ/Marriage.html
While the service may have as many as 4 readings, we require that one reading be from one of the Gospels. All Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm and Gospel readings need to be approved by the officiating clergy.

Holy Eucharist

Please inform the Officiating clergy if you wish to have the Eucharist celebrated at your wedding.

Photography

Please let your photographers know they MUST meet (or call) with Clergy in advance of the service.

Photographers can take pictures from the back of the church ONLY before, during and after the ceremony. To preserved the sacramental nature of the marriage ceremony, photographers may not walk up and down the aisles during the service and they may not use flash photography at any time. Videographers can be used, but are limited to one stationery camera at the back of the church.

Again, to preserve the sacramental nature of this liturgy and to insure your professional photographer can take flawless pictures, we ask that no guests or relatives take pictures during the service. (Guests will lean into the aisle or raise their phones above the heads of those in front of them to take pictures…impeding your photographer's ability to do his/her job).

To preserve the dignity of the occasion, a family member may wish to make this policy known at the rehearsal to avoid any interruption in the ceremony.

Flowers and Candles

Flowers may be ordered from the florist of your choice.

The local florist who normally provides our Sunday flowers and is most familiar with the church:

Boca Blooms
411 Palm Avenue
Boca Grande, FL 33921
(941) 964-1111

Native Gardens
(941) 815-6083

When ordering flowers please remember the following guidelines:

- Two arrangements are generally needed. They a placed on either side of the brass cross on the reredos behind the altar. The arrangements are never higher than the arms of the cross (27 ½ inches from the base of the container.)

- The church can supply rectangular brass vases for the two floral arrangements at the altar. These vases and green liners must never leave church property.

- The two floral arrangements at the altar remain for Sunday worship unless agreed upon in advance with the Parish Administrator (Pam Olivero).

- As the aisles are narrow, any flowers on the pews need to be minimal. Reserved rows may be marked with ribbons or modest flower arrangements.

Due to our flooring, NO confetti, birdseed, rice, flowers or petals, etc, are to be used in the church or on church property.

Please check with our Parish Administrator about the use of candles.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is generally held at 4 or 5 pm on the day before the wedding. Please ask your attendants, ushers, lectors, parents, and anyone participating in the service to be prompt and to dress appropriately. The rehearsal typically lasts 45 minutes to an hour. Please remember to bring your marriage license to the rehearsal.

Fees

St. Andrew's Church (made payable to St. Andrew's Church)	
Members:	$1,000
Non-members:	$2,000
Clergy Fee (made payable to clergy)	$750
Organist Fees (payable directly to the musician)	
Wedding music consultation, practice, and ceremony:	$300
Rehearsal Accompaniment (if requested):	$100
Rehearsal with vocal and/or instrumental soloist(s):	$50 each
Sextant (payable directly to the Sextant)	$100

All fees are due at or before the rehearsal.

