



Wedding Guide

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church

Flowers and Decorations

We realize that the bride and groom want this to be a lovely and memorable occasion, but Palmer is a beautiful church in and of itself. We recommend simplicity in decorating it.

- Speak to the wedding coordinator before selecting your florist.
- In the church, no flowers are allowed on the altar itself. Flowers are placed on the reredos on either side of the cross. In order for the flowers to fit in the church's brass vases, they MUST be in the following size plastic container: 8 inches tall, 5 inches wide at top, 3 inches wide at bottom. In the Chapel, flower arrangements may be placed on the credence shelves on either side of the Cross. Containers from the florist may be used in the chapel as long as they are tasteful and inconspicuous.
- Flower arrangements in the church or the chapel may not exceed 42" from top to bottom. Flowers may not be removed once they have been placed on the reredos or credence shelves. They are later taken by the Palmer Altar Guild to the sick or the homebound. The church or chapel decorations, including the flowers for the altar, must be completed by a time agreed upon by the wedding coordinator and the florist. To alleviate any confusion, please be sure your florist is advised of these regulations. A separate sheet highlighting the information your florist will need is included. Please give this sheet to your florist when you meet to discuss the flowers so that you can plan accordingly.
- There are to be no artificial flowers or greenery (i.e. plastic or silk) used in the decorations in either the church or chapel.
- Greenery is allowed in the church on the stair rails going up to the chancel area, on the chancel rail and on the pews. Arrangements may also be placed on the marble ledges at the base of the stairs if desired.
- Candles: There are several options regarding the use of candelabras in the church. These options may be decided at the time of your meeting with the wedding coordinator. Our service does not allow for the use of a unity candle.
- Pew markers of ribbons and greenery are allowed in the church or chapel if desired. They must be attached in such a way that they do not damage pews or chairs.
- Aisle candles are allowed in the church. These are to be furnished and installed by the florist, and they must also make arrangements with the bride to have someone light them. This is not the duty of the acolyte.
- Clean up: The florist must be on hand immediately after the wedding to remove the decorations. Aisle runners also are not allowed in the church or the chapel as they have proven to be hazardous.

Wedding Music

Weddings at Palmer are usually accompanied by joyful music which is uplifting and enriching. It is assumed that a couple desiring to marry in this parish subscribes to the style of worship and musical traditions associated with Palmer Church. While remaining within those traditions, the organist is ready to assist in planning wedding music which is both beautiful and appropriate for use in the Episcopal Church. Each wedding ceremony is considered individually in order to select music which reflects the unique quality of the occasion. Whether the marriage service is to be small or large, informal or stately, the music should be suitable for a religious service. During the music consultation the organist will give a demonstration of pieces of music to illustrate this principle. Varieties of musical resources, however, are available. Music may be simple or elaborate, joyful or solemn, light or serious.

All weddings at Palmer Church utilize the services of the organist for consultation and performance. Singers and instrumentalists from the church staff can also be utilized.

Please do not retain any musicians, singers, choirs, or instrumentalists without prior consultation with the organist. Policy guidelines regarding what may or may not be used in services of the church are derived from statements on page 14 in the Book of Common Prayer.

Nuptial Eucharist

Many people are returning to the custom of having a Nuptial Eucharist in which the marriage service is the first part of the Eucharist. Generally this changes the length of the service by approximately fifteen to twenty minutes. As with all celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in Palmer Church, all baptized Christians are invited to receive the Blessed Sacrament. A decision regarding the Eucharist should be made after conferring with the clergy during consultations and at least a week prior to the wedding.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals of weddings are entirely under the direction of the wedding coordinator. It is not customary for clergy to attend wedding rehearsals. It is understood that rehearsals start promptly at the designated hour to avoid delay and in consideration of the parish staff. Only the members of the wedding party need be present for the rehearsal. This helps the rehearsal proceed in an orderly and uninterrupted fashion.

Photography and Video Recordings

We appreciate the desire of the bride and groom and their families to have photographs commemorating the wedding, but it should be remembered that this is a sacred worship service. Our intent is to insure that the visual record reflects and preserves the sacredness of the occasion. Therefore:

- Check with the wedding coordinator before selecting a photographer.
- A flash photo of the bride and her escort coming down the aisle and one of the bride and groom leaving the nave are permitted, but no flash pictures during the ceremony are allowed. Time exposures may be taken from the balcony if desired. These time exposures should not be taken during prayers.
- It is imperative that the photographer meet with the wedding coordinator before the ceremony. Photographs may be taken of the bride and her attendants in the Bride's Room and the area outside it before the ceremony. A limited number of photographs may be taken of the wedding party after the service. These photographs should be limited to the wedding party and the immediate family only. Photographs of other wedding guests are more appropriately taken at the reception. We must request that no more than 15 minutes be taken for post-ceremony photography so that the church may be made ready for Sunday services. Candles are extinguished at the conclusion of the ceremony.
- Video recordings are allowed if made by a videographer who has been approved by Palmer Memorial Church. The wedding coordinator can furnish a list of persons so approved.

Clergy Honorarium

It is customary for the bride and groom to offer the officiating clergy an honorarium for his/her services. For further information, please contact the wedding coordinator.

Fees

Fees are set according to the policies of the church. A fee brochure may be obtained by contacting wedding coordinators Phyllis Svreck or Allison Caine at palmerweddings@gmail.com, or you may wish to download the Wedding Customary booklet (above). If you are a member and have a problem covering the published fees, please do not hesitate to discuss this with the clergy.

License

Arrangements for the marriage license should be made with the County Clerk well in advance of the ceremony. Law requires that a marriage license may not be executed within seventy-two hours of its issuance. The license should be given to the wedding coordinator at the time of the rehearsal. It is the responsibility of the clergy to complete it and return it to the county.

Dressing Areas

There is a room available in which the bride and her attendants may dress before the wedding. If you plan to have more than four attendants, please let the wedding coordinator know so that additional dressing rooms can be made available. The groom and groomsmen need to arrive in their wedding attire since there are no rooms set aside for this purpose at Palmer. As a general rule the groom and groomsmen may wait prior to the wedding in Fellowship Hall.

Receptions

Fellowship Hall and the Patio are available to be reserved for receptions. A deposit in advance is required to secure the date. Please consult the fee sheet for rates. Fellowship Hall and the Patio are available for two hours following the ceremony and no later than 10:00 pm on Saturday nights. This time limit is necessary for us to have the building prepared for Sunday programs.

Caterers

Caterers have use of the kitchen of Palmer Church, but are responsible for full clean up and for leaving the facility in a ready-to-use condition.