Wedding fees ~ The Church charges a fee of $400, which is used to defray costs and expenses related to the church building, preparation of the sanctuary and altar, the sexton, etc. The fee does not include an honorarium for the officiating priest or the cost of the organist.

The fee for persons who are active Members of St. John's is $300. An Active Member is one who, for at least twelve months prior to requesting a wedding date, regularly attends public worship and has pledged support of the mission of St. John's.

In order for the church to be reserved, the couple must first meet with the rector. Afterward, a non-refundable deposit of $100 must be made to reserve the church for the wedding date, as approved by the rector. This deposit will be applied to the total fees for your wedding. The remaining fees must be remitted to the church at least 60 days prior to the rehearsal.

Flowers ~ If flowers are to be used in the sanctuary, they are required to be on the altar as well. Purchase and placement of the flowers are not the responsibility of the church.

Photographers ~ Flash photography is permitted during the ceremony, as are video cameras. Photographers, however, should aim to be unassuming, and not disruptive to the wedding service.

Wedding Rehearsal ~ The rector, in consultation with the wedding coordinator, will arrange the time and date of the rehearsal. It is very important that all wedding participants attend the rehearsal, including the wedding party, readers and anyone else who has a role in the ceremony. Please be sure everyone arrives promptly. The priest who will officiate at the wedding is in charge of the rehearsal.

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* The offering of the Holy Eucharist may be included in nuptials.

* A consult with our parish music director is provided to advise on beautiful selections for your ceremony.

* Weather permitting, the adjoining garden may also serve as a charming setting for wedding photos at no extra charge.

* Our sanctuary seats up to 175 guests comfortably, with ample on-street parking and disabled access.

For additional information, please contact the church office by phone or email— we will be happy to assist you.

"A Welcoming Episcopal Family Seeking to Grow in Christ through Worship and Service to Others."

St. John's Episcopal Church

Wedding

Information/Guidelines

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906
Tel: 781-233-1242
E: office@stjohnssaugus.org
Web: www.stjohnssaugsus.org

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant [5]or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [6]it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.[7]It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **Love** never ends.

~ 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8

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Strong words, to confirm a strong bond. The commitment of marriage is one of God's greatest gifts - the promise of a life's journey; taken with a loving, faithful heart, and His guidance.

The clergy, parishioners, and staff at **St. John's Episcopal Church** wish to offer our congratulations on your engagement, and hope you will consider our warm and welcoming sanctuary for your ceremony.

We want your wedding to be a joyful, beautiful and memorable celebration. This booklet provides important guidelines and policies of our church that will assist you in planning.

Who may be married at St. John's?

Holy Matrimony, as understood in the Episcopal Church, is a "physical and spiritual union" that is "entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with intent that it be lifelong." Couples who share that understanding of marriage may be married at St. John's if at least one of the parties has received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. It is also expected that the couple desire to live out their marriage vows within the context of a Christian community, and as evidence of that intention, have, or in-tend to have, and ongoing relationship with St. John's parish or another church.

The Episcopal Church requires that a priest conform to certain requirements of the Church with respect to the solemnization of a marriage. In particular, if one or both partners is divorced, the priest must obtain permission from the Bishop, which takes at least an additional 30 days. It is desired that at least one year have elapsed between the final decree and the intended wedding. The rector can discuss these requirements with you, and if desired, supply you with a copy of the Church's Canon Law that addresses this subject.

Who may officiate at the wedding?

The rector is normally the Officiant at all wedding ceremonies. It is possible to arrange for a non-parish clergy person to participate in weddings at St. John's Church. Please discuss this with the rector as soon as possible.

Pre-marriage Counseling

The Episcopal Church requires "*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.*" The nature and extent of this instruction varies according to circumstances and will be decided in consultation with the couple.

Setting the Wedding date and time

Please do not set a definite wedding date until after meeting with the rector. You should inform the rector of your desire to be married at St. John's at least 90 days before the desired wedding date to allow adequate time for counseling and planning. Allowing flexibility in setting the wedding date ensures a greater degree of freedom for the couple as they move through pre-marital counseling sessions. Weddings are not scheduled during Lent. *Invitations should not be ordered until the rector has approved the date and recorded it on the Parish Calendar.*