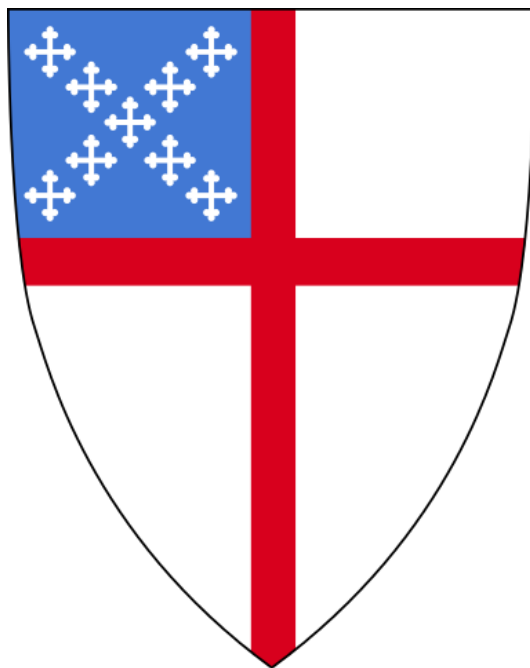


St. James Episcopal Church
Louisa, Virginia

Wedding Guidelines



540-967-1665

www.stjameslouisa.org ▪ <https://www.facebook.com/stjameslouisa>

Thanks for inquiring about a wedding at St. James Episcopal Church

Requirements for marriage at St. James are that at least one of the parties to be married must be a baptized Christian.

Marriage Services are available for most days throughout the Christian year, though traditionally, marriages are not scheduled during the season of Lent (from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday). (This can be discussed with the Priest).

Do we need to undergo counseling before our wedding?

Yes. Pre-marital counseling by a member of the clergy is required by the Episcopal Church and the bride and groom are requested to arrange for a conference as soon as possible with the Priest. **Both parties** must be present in an agreed upon fashion with the Priest.

One or both of us has been divorced. Are the guidelines different for us?

Yes. If either the bride or the groom has been divorced, the Priest must request permission from the Bishop of Virginia to marry them; which requires a bit more advance time than in other cases. Please consult the Priest about this.

Can we write our own vows or use a wedding service of our choosing?

No. While some minor variations may be permitted, in general *The 1979 Book of Common Prayer* will be used for all Marriage Services. Canon Law stipulates that all clergy must adhere to the liturgy as presented.

What about music for the service?

Our Organist/Choir Director, may be available for your wedding. Please contact the church office as soon as possible in advance of your wedding date at stjameslouisia@outlook.com or by phone at 540-967-1665 to see if she is available.

We ask that you use only music suitable for a church service, that is either sacred music, hymns, or instrumental music.

Do we need a service bulletin/leaflet?

It is not required, but you may create a leaflet to distribute to the guests at your wedding, or the church office will create a bulletin or leaflet for you. In either case, the Priest must approve its contents. A donation may be made to the church if church office provides the bulletins.

Is there a place for the bride and bridesmaids to get dressed?

Yes, the Parish Hall (upper or lower levels) is available for members of the wedding party to use to dress.

Can we decorate the church?

Yes and no!

Flowers. A bride and groom may donate two arrangements for use on the church's altar. These would remain at the church for use on Sunday morning. (Please let us know if you will be removing flowers so we can plan for our Sunday service).

Our Altar Guild is happy to order the altar flowers from the florist that we use, if so desired.

After all Services, altar flowers are distributed to the sick and shut-in. The bride may request that her flowers be sent to a specific congregation member who is sick or shut-in.

Pew decorations. Bows or small floral arrangements may be used to decorate the ends of pews.

Other decorations in the church are not permitted.

Torches. The church has a set of wrought-iron torches, which attach to the ends of pews.

Fees. There is no set fee for marriages in our parish. A donation to the Priest is a kind gesture. If our organist is used, a gift in kind for her time is also considerate and this may be discussed directly with her. Our sexton cleans our parish and parish hall once a week. A \$100.00 fee for the sexton's services to come in after your service is expected.

Can our photographer/videographer take pictures during the wedding?

Please discuss this with Priest prior to the event.

May we use the Parish Hall for our reception?

Yes. The Parish Hall is suitable for receptions of up to 80 people. Please, reserve the Parish Hall through the Church Office. Note that the Parish Hall kitchen has limited utility for catering.

If alcoholic beverages are served, we ask:

- that you ensure that persons under the legal drinking age do not have access to alcoholic beverages.
- that every effort is made to discourage and prevent driving under the influence.

Holy Matrimony Information Sheet

To be returned to the Church Office one month prior to your wedding.

Please return to: Church office OR mail to:
St. James Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 1216
Louisa, VA 23093

THE GROOM

Full name _____
(Please circle the name you wish used during the Service)

Address _____
(Street address, city, state, and zip code)

Telephone Numbers: (H) () _____ (W) () _____ (C) () _____

Father's full name _____

Mother's full maiden name _____

Parents' address _____
(Street address, city, state, and zip code)

Have you been baptized? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you a Communicant of St. James Church? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever been married before? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, divorced or widower? _____

Birth date: _____ Birth Place: _____

Occupation: _____

THE BRIDE

Full name _____
(Please circle the name you wish used during the Service)

Address _____
(Street address, city, state, and zip code)

Telephone Numbers: (H) () _____ (W) () _____ (C) () _____

Father's full name _____

Mother' full maiden name _____

Parents' address _____
(Street address, city, state, and zip code)

Have you been baptized? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you a Communicant of St. James Church? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever been married before? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, divorced or widow? _____

Birth date: _____ Birth Place: _____

Occupation: _____

WEDDING DAY

Day and date of wedding _____ Time: _____

Day and date of rehearsal _____ Time: _____

Officiant: _____

Where will the Service be? St. James Episcopal Church, Louisa, Virginia 23093

If other, where? _____

Will the Service include the Holy Eucharist? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you wish to have a Service bulletin/leaflet? _____ Yes _____ No

If so, how many? _____ (15 cents each)

Will you need to use the Parish Hall for the bridal party to dress? _____ Yes _____ No

Will you want to use the Parish Hall for the reception? _____ Yes _____ No

Permanent address after marriage _____

Phone number(s) _____

I would like the dedication for the flowers at the Altar to read:

To the glory of God and in loving memory of/honor of

OR

To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the marriage of

WEDDING PARTY

Best Man _____

Groomsmen

Maid of Honor

Matron of Honor

Bridesmaids

Flower Girl _____ Ring Bearer _____

Ushers

Declaration of Intention

We,

And

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help hereto.

Signature of Groom

Signature of Bride (Maiden Name)

Dated _____ A.D. _____

Note: This Declaration of Intention must be signed by a bride and groom desiring to be married in the Episcopal Church. This copy is provided for information purposes only.

St. James Episcopal Church

We are a warm, inclusive, and active community of open-minded Christians, responding to Christ's call through worship, fellowship, and ministries within and outside our church walls.

Our spiritual life is centered on the two sacraments our Lord instituted: Holy Eucharist and Holy Baptism. We also celebrate the sacramental nature of other rites that have more specific focus such as confirmation, matrimony, the reconciliation of a penitent, ordination, and the laying on of hands for healing: however, the two basic sacraments are the core of our church life. The Episcopal Church of America, like other national churches under the umbrella of the worldwide Anglican Communion, is autonomous and has its own system of governance. We are a member of the Diocese of Virginia.

*The first service in St. James was held on July 24, 1881. On September 9, 1881, the building was consecrated by Bishop Francis M. Whittle and was named Saint James Episcopal Church. Eighteen Hundred and Eight-one must have been a year of progress throughout the nations. It was four years after the official end of Reconstruction following the War Between the States. It was an age when people were looking forward to our nation becoming one of the leading powers of the world. Our church must have felt the mood of the time. Men and women attended church dressed in the height of fashion as shown by the style of that period which included morning coats for the men and bustles for the woman. Our church in those days must have been somewhat as it is today, on the move and becoming a distinct asset to the community and to its own communicants. *

*Taken from program booklet entitled...St. James Episcopal Church, "The First Hundred Years" 1881-1981.

St. James Episcopal Church went from Mission to Church status on February 3, 1991 under the leadership of The Rev. John O. von Hemert. Other Rectors have included: The Rev. Sherry Thomas, The Rev. Ann B. Davis, The Rev. Alex Riffée, and The Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Lazzuri (present).

540 967-1665

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