



# THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

*An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta*

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“To restore all people to unity with God and each other In Jesus Christ”

# WEDDING CUSTOMARY



*Updated 3/8/2023 by Mother Melanie Rowell*

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## The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Getting married is one of the most exciting times in a couple's life together. Much has gone into your relationship already to bring you to this point. As you come to the Church seeking to be married, you are asking God to enter into your relationship and bless your union together. Marriage signifies the mystery of the relationship between Christ and His Church, and in seeking the Church's blessing upon your marriage, you are expressing a desire to follow in your relationship the example Christ has set. The Church sees this relationship as a sacred sacrament, and, as the Book of Common Prayer states, your marriage is a union of your hearts, bodies, and minds to each other forever and is "therefore not be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God."

The guidelines in this customary are intended to help you begin your lives together in this fashion, following our Lord's example and the teaching of the Church. Please carefully read the information provided here for you. Many of the questions you may have regarding the details of your wedding will be answered here, and you will find important information you will need to pass on to your families, florist and photographer.

All weddings celebrated by the Church of Our Saviour clergy must be performed inside the Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church and should be accompanied by the Eucharist.

## Scheduling Your Wedding

The first step in the marriage process is a meeting with the Rector, Mother Melanie Rowell. To arrange this meeting please call the church office: 404.872.4169.

During your meeting with the Rector, it will be decided who will officiate the ceremony. Normally, one of the clergy at the Church of Our Saviour will officiate. Should you wish to have another priest officiate or assist, this must be discussed with the Rector and an invitation must be extended by Mother Melanie. Permission of the Bishop of Atlanta must be obtained for any priest outside the Diocese of Atlanta to officiate before any invitation can be extended.

In most cases, the priest who performs your wedding will provide pre-marital counseling and will direct the rehearsal. The officiating priest, and ultimately the Rector, have the final say on all matters relating to the wedding.

After the Rector confirms plans for the wedding, the Parish Administrator will place the wedding on the parish calendar. *Until your date is confirmed, it is suggested that you hold off on any financial commitments (such as deposits on reception, reception venue, etc.)*

Weddings may be scheduled any time of the year outside of Lent. Because Lent is a penitential season, weddings are not permitted. Typically, weddings are scheduled on Saturdays, with a rehearsal on the Friday evening preceding the wedding, though other days of the week are an option if the Church is available.

Weddings also may be scheduled on Sunday afternoons between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. as well as other times during the week when necessary.

## **WEDDINGS AT the Church of Our Saviour**

### **Who May Be Married in this Parish**

There are several diocesan and parish guidelines and restrictions on who may be married in this parish and in the Diocese of Atlanta. First, because marriage is a sacrament of the Church, at least one of the couple must be an Episcopalian, and both must be baptized Christians.

Second, because marriage is an event celebrated within the life of your faith community, both members of the couple must be or become members of the Church of Our Saviour. If you do not have a church affiliation, you may join the Episcopal Church as you begin your premarital counseling. Exceptions are made for those former parishioners who have moved out of the area, but who still have a family connection to the parish. In this case, we will perform the wedding, provided you are active in an Episcopal parish where you live. Exceptions on a case-by-case *basis may also be made* for active Episcopalians in other parishes who desire to be married here for logistical or other reasons.

Third, if either of the couple has been married previously, we cannot set a wedding date unless the Bishop has granted permission. This process takes approximately 60 days; therefore, an application for remarriage should be submitted at least six months before the desired date of your wedding. The application must include a copy of the final divorce decree and the divorce must have been final for at least one year prior to submitting an application for remarriage. *The Bishop has full and final authority in decisions regarding remarriage in the Episcopal Church.*

### **Premarital Counseling**

Canon law requires premarital counseling of any couple seeking the blessing of the church on their marriage. As a couple, you will begin working with the officiating priest in a personalized and focused program of counseling. Our clergy take this ministry most seriously. We are confident that you will share in this commitment by honoring appointments and completing session preparation work as the priest advises. We believe that the counseling program is an integral part of the learning and growth that you will cherish in the overall wedding experience at the Church of Our Saviour. Occasionally, circumstances require that premarital counseling be arranged with a professional counselor or a priest other than the priest who will officiate at your wedding. Such arrangements should be discussed with the officiating priest at the time the wedding is scheduled.

### **Marriage License**

Once you have obtained the application for a marriage license from your local county office, you should deliver it to the officiating priest (either during premarital counseling or at the wedding rehearsal, at the latest). It's recommended that you have the application process

completed at least one month prior to the wedding date. Once the officiating priest has the marriage license, it will be completed following the wedding and mailed to the courthouse via certified mail. You will receive the official certificate usually within one to three weeks following your wedding.

You should be aware that both members of the couple have to be present at the local county office to apply for the license. Some offices require that payment be made in cash; but with a letter from the priest certifying that you have completed marriage counseling, the license fee may be waived or significantly reduced. You may apply for a wedding license in any county in the state, so long as both applicants are Georgia residents. If either you or your prospective spouse is not a Georgia resident, then you must apply for your marriage license in the county in which the wedding will be performed. Information regarding Marriage Licenses can be found by searching the various county and state licensing agencies.

### **The Wedding Guild**

The Wedding Guild is a ministry of the Church of Our Saviour to assist the couple, wedding party, and families at the rehearsal and at the wedding ceremony. A wedding coordinator from the Church of Our Saviour will meet with the couple within one month of setting the date to answer planning questions regarding the ceremony and rehearsal and will be your primary contact on all arrangements pertaining to the liturgy and the use of the church. The wedding advisor works closely with the Rector to ensure that all parish policies are followed.

If wedding consultants or coordinators are used in the planning of the wedding, please be sure that they talk with a Church of Our Saviour wedding coordinator so that they are aware of all parish guidelines and customaries.

Your wedding will be an act of worship and celebration; therefore, every aspect of your service will be characterized by dignity and reverence. Attendants, decorations, and music should be planned using the guidelines below. The recommendation of the Wedding Guild is a reliable guide to the eventual decisions of the Rector. The Wedding Guild should be notified of any changes to your plans.

### **The Wedding Liturgy**

The wedding ceremony is intended to be set within a nuptial Mass. The Eucharist is what we celebrate when we come together as the people of God, and weddings are no different. The marriage liturgy will be taken from the Book of Common Prayer. Eucharistic Prayers I, II, A, B, or D may be used. The priest will help you select three Scripture readings appropriate for your wedding (*suggested readings are printed beginning on pages 9-14 of this booklet*). You may have family members or close friends read the first two lessons provided they will be present at the rehearsal and are comfortable reading in front people (it is a good idea to select as your readers family or friends who have experience reading in their own church). Acolytes will be scheduled at your request from our parish acolyte teams.

The ushers you select for your wedding will be responsible for escorting guests to the pews and helping maintain the prevailing atmosphere of reverence. Except for the pews reserved

for the respective families, pews should be filled from the front to the rear of the church and the guests distributed evenly.

Shortly before the ceremony, the Wedding Guild will see that the grandparents are escorted to their seats by an assigned usher, followed by the mothers of the couple. At this time no more guests will be seated by an usher. Late arriving guests will seat themselves *after* the wedding party has entered.

**The wedding will start on time.** The cooperation of all the wedding party, family members, photographers, etc. is requested to insure this happens. A Wedding Guild member will assist in the start of the procession. A full procession from the rear of the church includes all members of the wedding party. The procession of the wedding party will begin with the cross, which enters the Nave first. The order of procession of the wedding party will be determined by the priest and will be appropriate for this sacred liturgy.

In keeping with tradition, one or both of the mothers should stand as the cross enters the Nave, signaling the beginning of the wedding procession and the start of the worship service. During the service, the priest will prompt the congregation when to sit or stand.

## **Music**

The couple should meet with the organist at least two months in advance so that your musical selections may be finalized no later than one month before the wedding. The organist for your wedding shall be the parish organist; outside organists are not allowed to play unless the parish organist is unavailable on the date of your wedding. All musicians have to be approved in advance by the parish organist.

Since your wedding is a Sacrament, all music shall be sacred. Music outside of the sacred repertoire (popular songs, show tunes, etc.) is more appropriate for your reception. “Here comes the bride”/Wagner and Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March” are not appropriate selections. The organist will be able to guide you on selections that will meet these guidelines and will be appropriate for weddings. The Rector will have final approval concerning which music may be used in the church.

Additional musicians or soloists can make a wonderful addition to your wedding’s music offering. If you would like to have a trumpet, harp, flute or other musical instrument at your wedding or if you’d like to have a soloist sing, let the organist know when you meet and he can make arrangements for them. Musicians and soloists can be selected only from those on the parish musician list. The organist will rehearse with them, if necessary, prior to the wedding at an additional charge. Fees for musicians and soloists are set by professional contract and the parish has no control over their fees. The organist will inform you of the music fees at the time of your meeting with him. These fees should be paid at the time you pay all other wedding fees prior to the wedding. Recorded music will not be used.

## Flowers and Other Decorations in the Church

### Flowers

The Church of Our Saviour Flower Guild, comprised of members of the church who volunteer their time, is responsible for all floral decorations at the church. Wedding decorations must be planned and carried out within keeping with the parish customary. Arrangements for flowers for your wedding should be discussed with the Flower Guild coordinator at least three months before the wedding. Outside florists are not allowed to place flowers in the church or parish buildings.

The standard fee for flowers includes two arrangements placed behind the Altar. If desired, flowers may be placed along the ends of the pews, in the windows, on the entrance doors, and in the lobby and narthex. The set flower fee covers the Altar arrangement. Additional fees for these flowers beyond the altar arrangements will be discussed at the time you meet with the flower guild member coordinating flowers for your wedding.

If an outside florist will be preparing flowers for your bouquet and/or groom and groomsmen's boutonnieres, they will need to be delivered to the church at an agreed-upon time with the parish wedding coordinator. This ensures that the church will be open and the flowers will be ready in time for pictures. At your request, the Flower Guild will place ribbons or small floral arrangements to mark pews that are reserved for family and special guests.

Traditionally, the flowers used to adorn the church are left for the Sunday service as a gift to the church.

Rice, confetti, glitter, or bubbles may not be used in or around any church buildings. Balloons or living creatures may not be released. Birdseed may be thrown, but must be cleaned up before the wedding party departs the church. For safety reasons, sparklers may not be used.

**Candles:** The Altar Guild will place candles on the altar. Nothing may be attached to these candles. A unity candle is not part of the tradition of the Episcopal Church.

**Aisle Runner:** For safety reasons, cloth or paper runners are not to be used on the aisle.

**Other Furnishings:** No furnishings may be moved or added in the church without the permission of the Rector.

**Tape/Tacks:** NO tacks/nails will be used. Only non-sticky (painter's) tape, if necessary.

### Photographer & Videographer

*Please provide your photographer with the following guidelines regarding photography at the Church of Our Saviour when you make your arrangements.* You may use a photographer and/or videographer of your choosing. The priest and the Wedding Guild will work with them directly to ensure



their compliance during the ceremony as necessary. Photographs of the bridal party and family may begin 1 1/2 hours before the wedding begins. All photography must conclude at least 20 minutes before your wedding's start time.

The photographer may step into the aisle for **one** photograph as each of the couple enters for the procession and again once as the couple process out at the end of the wedding. Camera flashes for these two pictures only are allowed. Pictures may be taken (*without flash*) during your wedding, however **the photographer may not move locations once Mass has begun**. If they do, they will be asked to leave. We regret having to make strict rules for photographers and videographers to follow, but we all must remember that the wedding is a sacrament of the Church and distractions, noise and flash photography detract from the celebration. No cameras or photographers are permitted inside the Altar rail at any time before, during, or after your wedding.

Your wedding may be videotaped using a *stationary* camera placed on a tripod. The camera may be placed off to the side outside the altar rail, and an additional stationary camera may be placed in the back of the church. **The videographer will not be permitted to use additional lighting or move around the church once the procession has begun**. If they move around after the wedding has begun, they will be asked to leave the church. Stationary microphones may not be set up in the church; however, wireless microphones may be placed on the groom or officiating priest, if your videographer so desires.

You may want to have photos taken of the wedding party and family following the ceremony. The Wedding Guild will lead the wedding party and assist any family members to the front of the church immediately following the final procession. Please limit this process to 30 minutes or less, remembering the guests at your reception awaiting your arrival. If you would like the priest in any pictures, this picture should be the first taken after the wedding. It's a good idea to give the photographer a list of pictures you want taken before and after the wedding and to notify family and wedding party members at the rehearsal or prior to the wedding so that they can be ready for your photographer at the appointed times.

Photographers and videographers are expected to be professionally attired and respectful of the church's customs and policies.

## **Wedding Rehearsal**

A rehearsal is necessary in order to enable the participants to know in advance where they are to stand and what they are to do during the wedding ceremony. Everyone participating in your wedding should attend the rehearsal, including the wedding party, ushers, readers and parents.

Rehearsals are normally held the day before the wedding, usually on Friday evening for a Saturday or Sunday wedding. We ask that you advise all members of the wedding party arrive at the church at least fifteen minutes prior to the start time of the rehearsal so that it may begin promptly. Keep in mind that Friday afternoon/evening traffic is extremely heavy in the Virginia Highlands area and will be a factor for Friday rehearsals. Rehearsals usually last



45 minutes and will be conducted by the officiating priest and wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator will work with the couple in determining where each member of the wedding party will stand during the wedding. Discussing your plans with the wedding coordinator beforehand will allow the rehearsal to go smoothly and efficiently.

\*Important: The Church of Our Saviour does **not** have a parking lot or designated parking. Parking is extremely limited and often only street parking is available. Guests are advised to carpool if at all possible.

We recommend that you allow approximately 1 1/2 hours from the start of the rehearsal for your arrival at other functions that evening (*45 minutes for the rehearsal and 30-45 minutes for travel time to your next function, depending on where it will take place*).

## Your Wedding Day

### Dressing for the Wedding

The entire wedding party will need to be instructed, in advance, as to when to arrive at the church depending on the time of your ceremony and pictures being taken. Either of the couple and his/her attendants may dress at the church. We recommend that hair and make-up be done before arriving. The arrival time frame allows for clothing adjustment, last minute hair and make-up touch-ups, pinning of boutonnieres, distributing flowers and getting photographs done before the ceremony. If family members are going to be in the pre-wedding photographs please be sure they are also asked to arrive at the necessary time. The wedding coordinator will assist in getting your wedding party to and from pictures. They will also make sure that the photography is completed 1/2 hour before your wedding is scheduled to begin.

Please be sure to eat something during the day as you prepare for the wedding. NO food or coffee/beverages may be brought into the church nave—please make sure all members of your wedding party and families know this. The wedding coordinator will provide ice water and will attend to special medical needs for food. Please discuss any special needs with the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal so we can help you with these matters.

The wedding party should pack up all belongings before the wedding begins so that they may be picked up quickly as everyone leaves for the reception. Shopping bags with handles, labeled with wedding party member names, can be useful to place clothes, make-up, etc. to help eliminate cleanup after the wedding and allow you to get to the reception in a timely manner.

### Miscellaneous/Your Attendants

- Your two main attendants serve as principal, legal witnesses to the marriage and therefore should be at least 18 years old.
- You should plan on having one usher for every fifty guests.
- Flower girls and ring bearers can be a wonderful addition to your wedding attendants. Do consider the ages of small children acting in this capacity to minimize disruption

or distraction from the service. Minimum ages of 5 or 6 are suggested. You may also want to discuss how best to utilize them so that they are comfortable throughout the service (e.g. procession only, having a family member sit with them, etc.).

- If the you choose, friend(s)/family member(s) may be used to help distribute wedding programs which helps the ushers in the seating process.

## Seating Capacities and Arrangements, Guest Register, Bulletins

### Seating Capacity and Seating

The Church of Our Saviour seats, at capacity, approximately 158 people in the nave. If pews are to be reserved for family members and special guests, your ushers should be instructed about this at the rehearsal. (Traditionally, and when applicable, the bride's family is seated on the left, the groom's on the right, when facing the altar.) The number of reserved pews and who should sit in them should be decided by the couple and their families. It is the couple's responsibility to make these people aware of their exact seating location and to tell them to notify the usher where they are to sit. We suggest that the couple bring a list of the seating arrangements for reserved pews to the rehearsal so that the Wedding Guild can better assist with this process.

### Receiving Lines and Guest Register Books

If desired, both of these are functions that will occur at your reception and are not functions that should happen in the nave of the church.

### Wedding Bulletin (Program)

A bulletin will be printed by the parish office. If you choose, you may have the bulletin professionally printed. If you choose this option, please provide the officiating priest with a copy to review before final printing. If the parish office is to provide your bulletin, please *type* names of all attendants and family members you wish to include and provide this list to the parish administrator. The completed programs will be available at the rehearsal.

## Suggested Scripture Readings

*Select at least 2, one of which should be from the Gospels. If three selections, one must be from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and there will be one Gospel reading. If you have four selections, one is chosen from each category.*

### FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

#### Genesis 1:26-28

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and

multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

### **Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25**

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

### **Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7**

My beloved speaks and says to me: “Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.”

### **Tobit 8:5b-8**

Tobias said to Sarah, “Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our LORD that he grant us mercy and safety.” So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying, “Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is

your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever. You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them the human race has sprung. You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.' I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together." And they both said, "Amen, Amen."

**FROM THE PSALTER** (usually read responsively or in unison by the congregation)

**Psalm 67** *Deus misereatur*

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come  
to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

**Psalm 127** *Nisi Dominus*

- 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, \*  
their labor is in vain who build it.
- 2 Unless the LORD watches over the city, \*  
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.
- 3 It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; \*  
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the LORD, \*  
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior \*  
are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! \*  
he shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

**Psalm 128** *Beati omnes*

- 1 Happy are they all who fear the LORD, \*  
and who follow in his ways!
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*

- happiness and prosperity shall be yours.
- 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, \*  
your children like olive shoots round about your table.
- 4 The man who fears the LORD \*  
shall thus indeed be blessed.
- 5 The LORD bless you from Zion, \*  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
- 6 May you live to see your children's children; \*  
may peace be upon Israel.

## FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **Ephesians 3:14-19**

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

### **Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33**

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave

himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **1 John 4:7-16**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only

Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

## **FROM THE GOSPEL**

### **St. Matthew 5:1-10**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the

peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

### **St. Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

### **St. Matthew 7:21, 24-29**

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

### **St. Mark 10:6-9, 13-16**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

### **St. John 15:9-12**

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

## **Financial Arrangements**

During premarital counseling, the officiating priest will go over all fees with you. If you may not be able to afford any fees for any reason, please discuss this with the priest. These



discussions are kept strictly confidential, of course. Wedding fees (Organist, Sexton, Flower Guild and church use fee) must be paid at least two weeks before your rehearsal.

Fees should be handled through the parish office. One check for all fees is fine; please make the check payable to the Church of Our Saviour.

There is no charge for the work of the wedding guild — it is their pleasure to work with you to ensure a beautiful wedding.

## Wedding Fees

### Use of the Church for Wedding:

Pledging Parishioner: No Fee

Non-Pledging Member Fee: \$200

Non-Member Fee: \$1,000

Organist Fee ..... \$300

Flower Fee ..... \$150

Sexton Fee..... \$100

*(only required if a sexton will be needed)*

Suggested Clergy Honorarium.....\$250

*(This is a donation and is not required. Any honorarium amount is placed in the Rector's Discretionary Fund and is used to further the mission of the church.)*

## Contact List

**The Reverend Mother Melanie Rowell, Rector**

404-872-4169 (office)

706.540.7892 (cell)

[rector@coosatl.org](mailto:rector@coosatl.org)

**Mr. Alphus Spears, Wedding Guild, [alphusspears@comcast.net](mailto:alphusspears@comcast.net)**

## WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

- Schedule first meeting with Rector (Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_)
- Set date and time of wedding and rehearsal
- Rehearsal Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_
- Wedding Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_
- Schedule three remaining required meetings with Rector *(last meeting being at least 60 days prior to wedding date)*
  - Meeting Date/Time #1: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Meeting Date/Time #2: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Meeting Date/Time #3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Schedule meeting with parish organist (Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_)
- Schedule meeting with parish wedding coordinator (Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_)

- Give names of photographer, videographer, and florist if applicable, to parish wedding coordinator
- Provide copies of the Church of Our Saviour wedding policies to those involved in your ceremony:

Photographer and videographer

Florist

Wedding Planner

Family members involved in wedding planning

- Give wedding program information to parish administrator (*ideally two months prior to wedding*)
- Get marriage license and give to officiating priest (*deadline = rehearsal*)
- Payment for applicable fees to wedding coordinator (*to be paid prior to rehearsal*)
- Select 2 or 3 scripture readings and readers for wedding

Reader #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Text to be read \_\_\_\_\_

Reader #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Text to be read \_\_\_\_\_

- Consult with parish wedding coordinator to determine who will be formally seated and the order of procession
- Notify all bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, readers and family of rehearsal date and time

**The Church of Our Saviour**

1068 N. Highland Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

404-872-4169 (office)

THE REV'D MOTHER MELANIE ROWELL

RECTOR