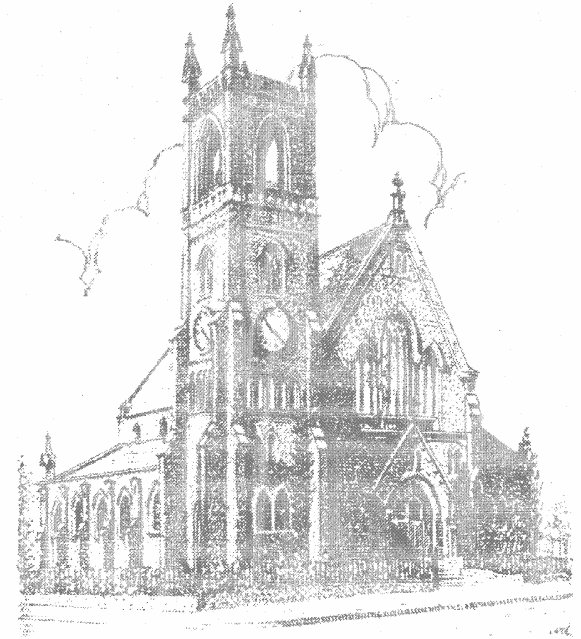


ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
Bristol, Rhode Island



Founded in 1718

CELEBRATION AND BLESSING
OF A MARRIAGE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



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 thereto.

Signature of Groom

Signature of Bride (Maiden Name)

Dated _____ A.D. _____

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
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Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
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Christian Marriage

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman working to their utmost ability and strengthened by God to establish a life-long relationship of love and mutual support. The Church counts marriage as one of the sacraments of the Christian life, as well as being a natural state and a civil matter. The ministers of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony are the couple themselves. The priest conducting the service is present to witness the vows on behalf of the Church and the State; to pronounce the Church's blessing upon the union; and to preside at the wedding Eucharist, if there is one.

Canon Law Concerning Marriage

St. Michael's is a parish church of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. All weddings performed in this parish are performed in conformity with the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Episcopal Church; in obedience to its Canon Law and the laws of the State of Rhode Island; and in accord with the directions of the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector of St. Michael's.

Eligibility for marriage in St. Michael's Church will be determined in accord with the requirements of the Canon Law of the Episcopal Church and the laws of the State of Rhode Island.

At least one of the parties in the proposed marriage must be baptized before planning can proceed, and evidence of baptism may be required.

Divorce, in and of itself, is not a barrier to marriage in the Church. In the case of a divorced person seeking remarriage in the Church, a priest must first agree to perform the marriage and then application must be made to secure the Bishop's permission to proceed.

Any priest of the Episcopal Church may, by Canon, decline to officiate at any wedding at any time without stating a reason.

Timing

A minimum of thirty (30) days notice of the intention to be marriage is required by Canon Law, though earlier notification is strongly urged.

Prompt contact with the Rector prior to the required thirty days minimum will greatly assist in finding a mutually satisfactory day and hour for pre-marital counseling sessions, rehearsal time and date, and a date for the ceremony.

A date for the marriage service will not become official until after the first premarital counseling session. Invitations should not be printed until then.

Pre-Marital Counseling

At the mutual convenience of the couple and the priest, a series of meetings will be scheduled for instruction and sharing concerning Christian marriage, as required by the Canon Law of the Church.

Commitments

All of the Sacraments of the Church are communal acts. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony happens within the community of faith and the Church wishes each couple to see the Church as a continuing means of support for their marriage. Getting married in this Church is more than simply appearing at the appointed time for the service to take place. Christian marriage involves community and commitment. The promises made at a wedding are not limited to the vows exchanged between the couple or even the couple and God. Promises are also made by the community to the couple and by the couple to the community.

If they are not currently involved in the life of this parish, each couple seeking marriage at St. Michael's is asked to agree to do the following:

1. Commit themselves to attending services at St. Michael's on a regular basis as part of their marriage preparation. Each couple may determine what regular attendance means, though once a month would be a minimum.

Readings

*(All readings may be found in the Bible.
The reading from Tobit is printed below)*

Hebrew Scripture:

Genesis 1:26-28
Genesis 2:4-9,15-24
Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7
Tobit 8:5b-8

Christian Scripture:

1 Corinthians 13
Ephesians 3:14-19
Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33
Colossians 3:12-17
1 John 4:7-16

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10
Matthew 5:13-16
Matthew 7:21,24-29
Mark 10:6-9,13-16
John 15:9-12

A reading from the book of Tobit 8:5b-8

'We praise you, God of our father, we praise your name for ever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you for ever. You made Adam and also Eve his wife, who was to be his partner and support; and those two were the parents of the human race. This was your word: "It is not good for the man to be alone; let us provide a partner suited to him." So now I take this my beloved to wife, not out of lust but in true marriage. Grant that she and I may find mercy and grow old together.'

The Word of the Lord.

the tile floor) and that bubbles, birdseed, confetti, rice and petals be saved for the reception. And in an effort to strengthen the symbol of the ring as the primary symbol for Christian marriage, unity candles are not allowed.

Fees

Sexton: \$125 **payable to St. Michael's Church**

Organist: Consult with Organist for fee

Priest: \$ 250 donation **payable to St. Michael's Church,
Stole Fee Fund**

Aisle Candelabras: \$ 25 donation **payable to
St. Michael's Church Altar Guild**

Altar Guild: \$ 250 **payable to St. Michael's Church Altar Guild**

For those who receive permission to be married in St. Michael's Church who have no connection to the parish, we request an additional fee of \$ 1,000. This should be made **payable to St. Michael's Church.**

2. Make a financial pledge to St. Michael's Church in whatever amount the couple determines. This pledge will be used to support the ongoing program and operations of the parish.

Making a pledge and regular attendance are means by which a couple can become an integrated part of the community of faith which they have asked to bless their union.

Beneath these two commitments lies the hope that church attendance, pledging and participation in parish life will become a part of the couple's married life as a shared value and practice. Membership and participation in the worship and life of a parish church is one way a couple can further bond their relationship. Church membership is also the context in which the church can offer its full measure of support to the marriage.

The Eucharist

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcome to come forward to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. If, for any reason, one does not wish to receive the Sacrament, the individual is encouraged to come to the Altar Rail, fold their hands on the rail, and receive the blessing of the Church.

Flowers, Aisle Candelabra

All decorations in the Church will be under the direction of the Rector and subject to his approval.

Please have your florist contact the Church Office at 253-7717 at the earliest possible time to receive important instructions.

Flowers placed on the Altar for a wedding normally remain on the Altar for Sunday services. Appropriate notice will be given in the Sunday bulletin, and prayers will be offered for the newly married couple at the Sunday services.

If aisle candelabras are desired, there is a fee of \$25.00, payable to St. Michael's church Altar Guild. This fee includes the cost of candles, there are 8 candelabras.

Music

Music used in the services of the Church is that which is in accord with the common usage and the Canon Law of the Church. Final determination as to appropriateness rests with the Rector.

A meeting with the Organist to plan music for the wedding, should be scheduled at the earliest possible date. Scheduling this meeting is the responsibility of the couple.

St. Michael's Organist and Choir Director is Alexander Bauhart who can be reached at 253-0738.

Any couple desiring the services of competent musicians in addition to St. Michael's Organist must receive prior permission from the clergy. *Other musicians should not be engaged until the Rector has been consulted.*

If, for any reason other than illness or prior commitment, the Organist of St. Michael's does not play for the wedding, he will be compensated at one-half his standard rate. *Please consult with Organist for his fee.*

Photographs

The name(s), address and phone number of the photographer and videographers should be forwarded to the Church Office as soon as possible.

Photographers must consult with the Rector before the ceremony. High speed photography is allowed in the balcony. Video-recording, using available light is allowed from the balcony. **No flashbulbs or artificial light of any sort may be used at any time during the service.** The procession is part of the service.

Pictures with flash may be reposed for one half hour after the service. Formal photos may not be taken at the end of the service except in case of inclement weather.

Custodial Services

The fee for the parish sexton's services is \$ 120, payable to St. Michael's Church.

Fees

A donation of \$ 250 is requested for the clergy and should be made payable to St. Michael's Church, Stole Fee Fund.

A fee of \$250.00 is requested for the Altar Guild, who prepares the altar and communion for the wedding, and should be made payable to St. Michael's Church Altar Guild.

Note: All fees may be paid at the time of the rehearsal.

Service Program

If you wish to have a program for the service printed please be sure to contact the church office at 253-7717 for more information.

Wedding Readings at the back of this booklet

Please choose one reading from each category. If you are not having Eucharist please choose two readings, one from Hebrew scripture and one from Christian scripture.

The Rehearsal

All attendants should be present at the rehearsal. Allow an hour and please be prompt. The Marriage License should be presented to the clergy at the rehearsal so that all documents may be signed at that time.

Other

In an effort to promote safety during and after the service, the church requests that aisle runners not be used (due to slipping on