

*Christ Church, Frederica*

# Wedding Guide



# Weddings at Christ Church, Frederica

*A Guide for Couples Planning Their Sacred Celebration*

*Rev. 3.2026*

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## Table of Contents

<b>Getting Started .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
• Marriage Requirements	
• Scheduling & Deposits	
• Wedding Coordinator Contact	
<b>Planning Your Wedding .....</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
• Fees & Payment	
• Counseling Requirements	
• First Meeting Process	
<b>The Wedding Service .....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
• Clergy & Music	
• Flowers & Photography	
• Liturgical Guidelines	
<b>Facilities &amp; Timeline .....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
• Church Capacity	
• Day of Wedding	
• Rehearsal Information	
<b>Wedding Request Form .....</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Photography Policy .....</b>	<b>Page 11</b>

# Getting Started

We are delighted that you are interested in getting married at Christ Church. We try to say, “yes!” after you or your fiancé says, “yes!” In order to do that, we have compiled some information to help you learn about weddings at Christ Church. We want you to know what we require as an Episcopal congregation on the front end so we can manage expectations well.

We always want to hear from you if you have questions or concerns about these guidelines. They are presented succinctly to save time in reviewing policies, and we ask your forgiveness if the policies seem cold or rigid. We receive many requests for marriage at Christ Church, and this method of sharing information allows us to manage those requests as effectively as we can. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you to determine if we are the right congregation for your ceremony.

## **The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage**

Marriage is a holy union blessed by God and celebrated within our faith community. At Christ Church, Frederica, we follow the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer and canonical requirements for all wedding ceremonies.

## **Requirements**

The Episcopal Church requires:

- At least one partner must be a baptized Christian
- Two witnesses must attest to the ceremony
- The marriage must conform to Georgia state law and Church canons

## **Membership Eligibility**

**Members** include those who for at least one year have:

- Regularly attended Sunday worship
- Actively participated in parish life
- Made an annual financial pledge

**Member families** include children and grandchildren of active members.

## Previous Marriages

If either partner was previously married, you must meet with the officiating priest at least 6 months before your wedding. Bishop's consent for remarriage is required in the Episcopal Church, and specific paperwork must be completed. The Episcopal Church requires that one full year must have elapsed since any divorce was finalized.

## Scheduling Guidelines

- **Advance booking:** 6-18 months (required)
- **Available times:** 10 AM - 5:30 PM
- **Restricted periods:** No weddings during Lent, Holy Week, first week of Easter, final week of Advent, or major holiday weekends
- **Contact:** Wedding Coordinator only at [weddings@ccfssi.org](mailto:weddings@ccfssi.org) or 912-638-8683

# Planning Your Wedding

## Wedding Fees

### Member Fees

- **Active member or child of member:** \$750
  - **Grandchild of member:** \$1,000 *No additional clergy fees required*
- **Non-Member Fees**

### Indoor Ceremonies (Christ Church)

- 0-50 guests: \$2,500
- 51-75 guests: \$3,500
- 76-175 guests: \$5,500
- 175+ guests: \$6,500

### Indoor Ceremonies (St. Ignatius Chapel)

- 0-50 guests: \$2,500
- 51-75 guests: \$3,500

**Outdoor Ceremonies:** Add \$1,000 to above rates

## Additional Services

- Live streaming and/or recording of the service: \$250
- Reception facility rental: Contact coordinator

## Deposits & Payment

- **Member deposit:** \$250 (non-refundable)
- **Non-member deposit:** \$750 (non-refundable)
- **Final payment:** Due one month (30 days) before wedding

## Counseling Requirement

Pre-marital counseling is required for all couples. This may be completed with Christ Church clergy or an approved outside counselor. A completion report must be submitted to your officiating priest.

## Your Wedding Team

**Primary contacts:** Wedding Coordinator, Parish Administrator, officiating priest, and Director of Music Jim Broussard (jim@ccfssi.org).

**Important:** All wedding communication occurs only between Christ Church staff and the couple.

# The Wedding Service

## Clergy

Christ Church clergy typically officiate all weddings. While we accommodate preferences when possible, priest assignment depends on availability. Visiting clergy require written permission from the Rector.

## Music

Our Director of Music oversees ALL wedding music and must approve ALL musicians. Contact Jim Broussard early in your planning process. Additional instrumentalists incur extra fees and must be arranged through our music staff.

## Flowers

- **Altar:** Two pedestal arrangements only
- **Doors:** Wreaths permitted in narthex
- **Restrictions:** No pew decorations (protects historic furnishings)
- **Vendor:** Edwards on St. Simons is our preferred florist, but you may use others
- **Offering of flowers:** Traditionally, ceremony flowers remain on the altar for Sunday morning as a thanksgiving for your marriage

## Photography & Videography

- **Professional required:** Must sign photography policy
- **Flash restrictions:** Only during processional/recessional
- **Service photography:** Back of church only, no flash
- **Church videography:** Available for \$250 (fixed cameras already in place)
- **Guest photography:** Discouraged during service

## Liturgical Elements

- **Candles:** Altar and Paschal candles provided (no unity candles)
- **Aisle runners:** Not permitted (safety/aesthetic reasons)
- **Confetti/rice:** Not permitted anywhere on property
- **Bubbles:** Allowed outside only

## Wedding Planners

If using an outside wedding planner, inform our Wedding Coordinator immediately. Christ Church liturgical customs supersede all other directions.

# Facilities & Timeline

## Church Capacity

- **Main church:** 170 comfortable seating (more possible)
- **Winn Building:** Additional 50 seats with audio/video
- **St. Ignatius Chapel:** 75 maximum

## Facility Use

- **Buildings:** 2 hour before and 1 hour after ceremony
- **Grounds:** 4 hours before, 1 hour after ceremony
- **Photography:** 2 hours before, 1 hour after (buildings)

## Rehearsal

Required for all weddings, typically Friday 4-5 PM. All attendants and scripture readers must attend. Alternative times available by coordination.

## Day of Wedding

- **Service length:** 40 minutes (without Eucharist), 1 hour (with Eucharist)
- **Arrival:** Come dressed and ready (limited dressing facilities)
- **Punctuality required:** Provide emergency contact numbers
- **Overtime fees:** \$200 per half-hour for extended facility use



## Wedding Request Form

Thank you for your interest in holding your wedding service at Christ Church, Frederica. To help us thoughtfully consider your request, please complete the form below or put the information in a separate document. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Wedding Coordinator at [weddings@ccfssi.org](mailto:weddings@ccfssi.org).

### Information of Partner A:

Full name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone (Mobile, Work, and Home)	
Email	

Date of Birth	
Date of Baptism	

Member of Christ Church?		If yes, since when?	
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Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name, Street Address, and Phone Number		
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Previous Marriages?	Yes    #	No
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### Information of Partner B:

Full name	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone (Mobile, Work, and Home)	
Email	

Date of Birth	
Date of Baptism	

Member of Christ Church?		If yes, since when?	
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What service do you typically attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name, Street Address, and Phone Number		
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Previous Marriages?	Yes	#	No
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### General Information:

Will you be using a wedding planner?		If so, please list their name, email, and/or phone number.	
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The following questions apply to those who are **not** members of Christ Church, Frederica.

Are you active members in good standing of a parish other than Christ Church, Frederica?	
If so, please indicate the name of your home parish.	

If you have a regular congregation, a letter or email from your Rector or Pastor confirming your active involvement and requesting that the clergy of Christ Church, Frederica perform the wedding on their behalf is required before proceeding with the planning process. This can be mailed, scanned, or sent to [weddings@ccfssi.org](mailto:weddings@ccfssi.org).

Name of Rector/Pastor and Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Additionally, please write a brief letter or email to our Rector, Father Tom Purdy, sharing why you would like to be married at Christ Church. You may email him at [tom@ccfssi.org](mailto:tom@ccfssi.org), or send a letter to the following address if you prefer to mail it:

The Very Rev. Tom Purdy  
 Rector  
 Christ Church, Frederica  
 6329 Frederica Road  
 St. Simons Island, GA, 31522

All weddings at Christ Church, Frederica are officiated by current clergy of the parish. Former rectors and former church clergy staff do not preside over weddings held at Christ Church.

**Requested Service Date and Time:**

If we are able to accommodate your request, on what date and at what time would you like to hold the service? Available service times are 10 AM - 5:30 PM. Please indicate your top three preferences below:

First Choice Date and Time:	
Second Choice Date and Time:	
Third Choice Date and Time:	

Reception Information:

Would you like to receive information about hosting your reception at Christ Church, Frederica?	
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Request, Acknowledgement, and Signatures:

We respectfully request consideration to hold our wedding service at Christ Church, Frederica. We understand that, due to limited availability, not all requests can be accommodated. Therefore, we will refrain from making firm plans regarding the location, date, or time until we receive formal approval.

Please print your names below

\_\_\_\_\_  
Partner A

\_\_\_\_\_  
Partner B

Please sign and date below

\_\_\_\_\_  
Partner A

\_\_\_\_\_  
Partner B

**Please return the completed form to the address or email below.**  
*Allow at least 10 business days for a response.*

**Wedding Coordinator**  
Christ Church, Frederica  
6329 Frederica Road  
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

Email: [weddings@ccfssi.org](mailto:weddings@ccfssi.org)  
Phone: 912-638-8683  
Fax: 912-638-4030

# **CHRIST CHURCH, FREDERICA**

## **Wedding Photography Policy**

REV 07.2025

### **Flash and additional lighting during the service**

Christ Church, Frederica does not allow flash photography of any kind during any service as it interrupts the sanctity and flow of the service.

### **Flash and additional lighting before and after the service**

Photographers may take flash photographs of the procession as it enters the church from any location. Once the bride reaches the front, flash use must be discontinued, and photographers retreat to a station behind the last person seated in the congregation. At the end of the service, photographers take flash photographs of the procession as it leaves the Church from any location.

### **Location of People and Equipment**

Photographers and videographers must never move between the congregation and the liturgical action in the sanctuary. Videotaping of the service may be done only if the camera is stationary, does not obstruct the liturgical action or the congregation, and does not require the use of distracting lights.

### **Group Photographs**

We understand the importance that couples place upon the preservation of their day in photographs. Therefore, the couple may decide to take group photographs before the service or immediately after the service. The couple should make these arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator and confirm them with the officiating priest. Note: If any photographs are to include the officiating priest, it would be greatly appreciated if they could be included in the first photographs taken. Likewise, it is possible to “stage” a photo of a part of the ceremony with the priest, but please try to give notice beforehand whenever possible to facilitate such requests in a timely manner.

### **Microphones**

Portable microphones may be used as long as they don't interfere with the Church's sound system.

### **Photographer/Videographer's Acknowledgement and Signature**

I will be photographing and/or videotaping the service for

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and fully understand Christ Church, Frederica's photography policy, which I will respect and follow.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed form at least one month before the service to:**

Wedding Coordinator  
Christ Church, Frederica  
6329 Frederica Road, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522  
Email: [weddings@ccfssi.org](mailto:weddings@ccfssi.org)  
Telephone: 912-638-8683