Wedding Policy for St. Thomas Chapel at DaySpring, Parrish, FL

Spring, 2012

St. Thomas Chapel, Ellenton, Florida, is a Chapel of the Diocese of Southwest Florida at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center. The Bishop is the ordinary authority for the use of the Chapel and he delegates this authority to the Canon to the Ordinary in his absence.

Normal Use supports the spiritual needs of those groups and individuals who attend retreats, conferences and other gatherings at the DaySpring Episcopal Center. The Bishop delegates the supervision and scheduling of the Chapel for Normal Use to the Director of DaySpring.

Occasional Use is reserved for the Pastoral Offices of the Episcopal Church (such as Ash Wednesday) for those at the Center who will not be able to attend such services at their own parish. This is usually arranged between the Canon to the Ordinary and the Director.

Exceptional Use pertains to funerals, weddings, baptisms, memorial services, etc., for Episcopalians and their families. Exceptional Use of the Chapel requires the permission of the Bishop who will render a decision based on a written request as follows:

1) Episcopal Church weddings: Priority is given to Priest of the Episcopal Church making a written request at least ninety (90) days in advance of the service. All norms governing Holy Matrimony according to the Book of Common Prayer in the Diocese of Southwest Florida will be observed. The Priest making the request will be either
   a. Canonically resident in the Diocese of Southwest Florida
   b. Otherwise licensed by the Bishop
2) Episcopal Church Funerals, Requiems, Memorial Services, Committals, etc. also require the written request of the officiating clergy of the Episcopal church. The Priest making the request will be either
   a. Canonically resident in the Diocese of Southwest Florida
   b. Otherwise licensed by the Bishop

Extraordinary use includes service/liturgies outside the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Church not covered under the terms of Normal Use described above. Such use is seen as an opportunity to expand the ministry of the Center through a donation to the DaySpring Endowment. A minimum donation of two thousand five Hundred dollars ($2,500) is expected. This covers use of the Chapel only. DaySpring will make no arrangements for catering, meals, parking, etc. Extraordinary use of the Chapel requires:

1) Written permission of the Bishop (or Canon to the Ordinary)
2) Written permission of the Director of the DaySpring Episcopal Center

As the ordinary authority of the Diocese, the Bishop may refuse the use of the Chapel at his/her sole discretion.