



ALL SAINTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Policy and Information

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND MARRIAGE

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant in the presence of God. When you choose to be married in the Church, you are choosing not so much a location as a community and a way of life. The marriage rites of The Episcopal Church shape and reflect what this community believes, and are therefore the appropriate form to use in celebrating, and asking God's blessing upon, your covenant with each other. This Church, and the marriage services take seriously the question of how we express God's love and Christ's presence in our lives as individuals and as a couple.

With the recent change in Arizona law, and according to the policies of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, priests are now permitted to officiate at the weddings of same-sex couples, or to offer a liturgical blessing for those who have been married civilly (i.e., by a judge or justice of the peace).

Your decision to be married in the Church is a way of affirming that your lives are strengthened by the witness and support of the Christian community. Because the Church understands the role of the community in establishing a healthy Christian marriage, we require that the couple engage in pre-marital conversations that reflect on the questions and promises of the marriage service and call the engaged couple into thoughtful and authentic communication with each other. These pre-marital conversations occur in meetings with the clergy person who will preside at the marriage. No one will be excused from this pre-marital preparation.

The wedding is the beginning of a new stage of loving each other and working out your common life. Commitment as a couple to the practice of religion is important, because it can support you and enrich your lives as you struggle with your own natural differences and the pressures that work against lasting marriages. Exploration and decision about a church home, and participation in the worship, education, and fellowship of your church, are an important first step in your married life. If you are not already a member of this congregation, since your wedding will be celebrated and blessed at All Saints', we hope you will consider making this your church home. And remember that the relationship you develop with your officiating priest is a special one, and we encourage you to draw upon that bond as a source of support for a lifelong commitment.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to assist you in preparing for the celebration and blessing of your marriage in the Church. Planning for a marriage includes not only schedules and countless details, but also a set of convictions about marriage, and what those convictions mean in the lives of two people. The following paragraphs describe the convictions Christians have about marriage and the procedures for marriage that are customary at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Please read this booklet carefully. It will answer many questions and serve as a reliable aid in your understanding of, and preparation for, marriage at All Saints'. The specific requirements and stipulations detailed throughout this booklet are the clear policies of All Saints'. Your commitment to follow them is a prerequisite to marriage taking place at All Saints'.

WHO MAY BE MARRIED IN THIS CHURCH?

Couples often seek to be married in the Church because it provides an attractive, traditional setting. However, sometimes the same couples have little or no relationship to the life of the Church. At All Saints', we anticipate working with couples who seriously seek to make Christ and the Church a part of their marriage relationship. We urge all couples who are contemplating marriage to worship at All Saints' and share in the life of the congregation. We recommend that couples who are members of congregations of other denominations be married within their own religious traditions. Experience shows that it is critical for people to celebrate significant events of life in the same liturgical tradition they practice on a regular basis. Ordinarily, permission is not given to active members of congregations of other denominations to be married at All Saints'. If you are members of another Episcopal congregation in the Diocese of Arizona, arrangements for a marriage at All Saints' must be made by your parish priest.

We will engage in serious conversation about wedding arrangements with those who:

- Are active, worshipping members of the congregation
- Are actively seeking to become members of our Parish
- Have families who are active members of the congregation
- Are members of other Episcopal congregations in the Diocese *
** please read carefully the relevant policy paragraph on page 4*
- Are willing to engage in a serious exploration of the Christian faith prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage

COUPLES WHOSE CHURCH HOME IS ELSEWHERE, BUT WISH TO MARRY AT ALL SAINTS'

Firstly please refer to page 3, "WHO MAY BE MARRIED IN THIS CHURCH?" Having done that, if you wish to proceed with your inquiries about marriage at All Saints' please note the following conditions:

- Before proceeding any further, ask your parish priest to be in touch with the Rector. After this initial contact the parish priest will be asked to:
 - write as to the circumstances as to why it would be appropriate for the marriage to take place at All Saints'
 - vouch for the couple
 - verify the arrangements for pre-marital counseling
 - confirm that they are happy for the service to follow the customary of All Saints'
- The couple's parish priest will be able to officiate at the service. One of the All Saints' clergy will also attend the service and will oversee the rehearsal.
- It will be the responsibility of the couple's parish priest to ensure that they undertake the necessary pre-marital counseling.
- Regarding the service, please read carefully the paragraph entitled "THE LITURGY AND PRINTED ORDER OF SERVICE" on page 7. The policies and procedures contained therein apply to all couples, irrespective of whether they are members of All Saints' or not. Most parishes in the Episcopal Church have their worship life centered around the tenets of *The Book of Common Prayer*. However it is appreciated that individual parishes sometimes deviate from the Rites of the Episcopal Church or modify them for local use, and often have their own rubrics and customs. Couples and parish clergy please take careful note that all facets of the service must conform to the customary of All Saints', and not to any other. A printed order of service, available for the entire congregation, and produced by All Saints', is a requirement. There is no option to dispense with a printed order of service, nor to personally produce one.
- If the visiting parish priest wishes to include their own acolytes or other liturgical ministers in the service, this needs to be made known when they write to All Saints' in the first instance. Provision of music will always be under the direction of the Director of Music.
- Other than the couple's parish priest providing pastoral care and counseling, please note that all policies and stipulations in this booklet will apply to the couple and the service, irrespective of the fact that they may not be members of All Saints'.
- Once it has been agreed that the wedding will take place at All Saints' and the date has been set, the couple must be in touch with the Church Office to obtain a Marriage Application form. Please complete the form and return it straight away. The couple will not need to complete a Declaration of Intention form for All Saints', but instead should do this with their parish priest.
- Only Episcopal priests from the Diocese of Arizona will be given permission to officiate. Priests from other Episcopal dioceses, from other parts of the Anglican Communion, or from other recognized Christian denominations, may be invited to have a participatory role, but will not preside over the service.
- Fees will be those for non-members, without exception.

PRE-PLANNING

INQUIRIES

Inquiring about your wedding begins with thoroughly reading through this booklet and committing to the expectations outlined within. After careful consideration, please contact the Church Office to set up a time to meet with a member of the clergy staff.

Possible dates for your wedding at All Saints' will only be discussed after you have met with one of the clergy. Until that time no commitments will be made to the All Saints' calendar.

If it is agreed that the wedding is to proceed, the priest will set the wedding date on the calendar and ask you to complete a *Declaration of Intention* and an *Application of Marriage* form. He/she will then arrange subsequent meetings with you. These meetings will be placed at regular intervals as the priest determines until your wedding day.

One of the All Saints' clergy will officiate at all marriages. Weddings usually take place on Saturdays, with services beginning between 10:00am and 3:30pm. When available, weddings can be arranged on weekdays at a time to be determined. No weddings take place on Sunday or during the Church seasons of Lent and Advent, nor on Christmas Eve, nor on Holiday weekends throughout the year. Please take note of "The Space" on page 6.

CANONICAL REQUIREMENTS

The laws of The Episcopal Church require that at least a thirty-day's notice be given for the wedding and that the clergy ascertain:

- The right of the parties to contract a marriage according to the laws of the state;
- That Holy Matrimony is understood to be entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind and will, and with intent that it be lifelong;
- That both parties freely and knowingly consent to such marriage, without fraud, coercion, mistake as to the identity of a partner, or mental reservation; and
- That at least one of the parties has been baptized.

REMARRIAGE

If either party has been divorced, you will need to complete an *Application for Remarriage* form. Please complete the form and submit it with the signature page from your Divorce Decree to the priest who will be officiating at your marriage. He or she will go over this with you and will then send it to the Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona for approval. An official certificate of the divorce decree will need to be included with the application. Since this is due at the Bishop's office sixty days prior to the wedding, it will be important to do the preliminary meeting with the priest at least seventy-five days in advance. If this is a third marriage for either or both parties, further consultation with the Bishop's office will be necessary.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The clergy are required to “instruct both parties as to the nature, meaning, and purposes of Holy Matrimony, or ascertain that they have both received such instruction from persons known by him or her to be competent and responsible.” Normally this process will begin at least three months in advance of the wedding. Your experience during your engagement will form part of the discussion.

MARRIAGE LICENSES IN ARIZONA

The State of Arizona has two different types of marriage licenses: Standard and Covenant. It is important to discuss with the clergy which type of marriage license you are considering. For more information, go to the Clerk of the Superior Court website: www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov

PLANNING THE WEDDING

As you plan, please remember that the officiating priest is in charge of the wedding and must approve all final arrangements. Several areas of practical concern include:

THE OFFICIATING PRIEST

The assignment of priests for weddings rests with the Rector. If you would like a particular member of the clergy staff to officiate at the wedding, you may request this when making initial arrangements. However, it may not be possible for that priest to preside, and the Rector reserves the right to assign another priest to your wedding. Ordinarily, only the current clergy of All Saints’ preside at marriages. Arrangements for other clergy to participate must be made with your officiating priest.

THE SPACE

A wedding may only take place in the Nave or the Chapel of the Holy Innocents. The Nave seats 485 guests. The Chapel can accommodate 50 guests.

WEDDING COORDINATORS

All Saints’ Wedding Coordinators are involved in all weddings that take place at All Saints’. These coordinators will be your point of contact for all practical arrangements within the church, including its decoration, and the bride’s preparation room. They will be present at the rehearsal and wedding to assist and advise. The Director of the Wedding Coordinators is a volunteer and does not have an office at the church. She is happy to be contacted at the home telephone number to be found at the end of this booklet.

Outside wedding coordinators are not allowed at All Saints’ in any official capacity.

MUSIC

If you wish to have music at your wedding, you will need to meet with, and use the services of, our Director of Music. He will help you with your choice of appropriate music, which should be agreed upon two months before the wedding day. Before meeting with the Director of Music, please take the time to listen to the recording provided. This recording is a compilation of a dozen of the most requested works played on this organ. Please keep in mind that not all music is successful when played on an organ. Some transcriptions of orchestral works are wonderful, and some are not successful. While you are not required to choose from the selections on this recording, they will give you a clear idea of what works well on this instrument. The choice of music should reflect the fact that the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a sacramental rite of the Church. Secular music will not be permitted at the service, and should be saved for the reception. If you wish to use an instrumentalist or vocalist, please talk with the Director of Music. Professional musicians may be hired through All Saints' at your request with fees ranging upward from \$150 per person. If you have family members or friends who wish to perform, it is preferable for them to do this at the reception. Although the Director of Music can give you clear guidance on all music matters, these directions do come from the guidelines specified by the Clergy of All Saints'. Access to the organ loft is available through the Director of Music 30 minutes prior to the wedding. Photographs of the organist, vocalists, or instrumentalists are not appropriate during the service.

THE LITURGY

The texts of the liturgy and the rubrics (which give directions about the liturgy) are the set formularies of The Episcopal Church and of All Saints'. They are not open to re-wording, negotiation or change. The liturgy for opposite-sex couples can be found beginning on page 423 of the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. The liturgy for same-sex couples is "*The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant*." Within the liturgy there are a few choices, and your priest will discuss these with you. If the service will include Holy Communion, only Prayers A or B from the BCP or Prayer 1 from *Enriching Our Worship* are options. All readings must be from Holy Scripture, and are taken from the New Revised Standard Version. Texts of poetry and other works are not allowed.

PRINTED ORDER OF SERVICE

A printed order of service, available for the entire congregation, and produced by All Saints' is a requirement. It will enable the witnesses of your wedding to participate fully in the service. It is an important record of your service which can be kept to reflect upon in the years to come. The Communication Office has a detailed understanding of the liturgy of the Episcopal Church and will design and print the leaflet. You will be able to see a copy of the leaflet before it is printed. You will need to advise us of the number of printed orders of service you require at least three weeks prior to the wedding day. Please use the expertise of our Communication Office at all times. There is no option to dispense with a printed order of service, nor to personally produce one.

FLOWERS

You and your florist must discuss all decorations with the Director of our Wedding Coordinators. The Altar flowers will be purchased by All Saints' from our florist with attention to the individual preferences of the couple. Charges will be reflected on the fee sheet. Altar flowers become a memorial to the glory of God once they are placed at the altar and they may not be removed for use

elsewhere. They become the couple's gift for the following Sunday service. If there are other flowers and decorations, please plan to remove these from the Nave immediately following the service. The flower girl MAY NOT drop flower petals as she processes. Please do not throw birdseed, rice, or confetti in the Church or on the grounds. Bubbles are sometimes used as an alternative.

CANDLES

Candles are always lit on and around the altar. There are five pairs of pew torches which are placed at the ends of certain pews and are available for your use.

(The Unity Candle ceremony, which is sometimes found in other traditions, is not used at All Saints'.)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Your photographer may take photographs of the wedding party in the church up to forty-five minutes before the wedding and thirty minutes immediately following the service. Because the wedding is an act of worship, no member of the congregation is permitted to take pictures during the service. Ushers should make sure that guests with cameras understand this. The wedding photographer may use a flash when photographing the procession and recession. During the service the official photographer may be at the back of the church taking pictures with no flash equipment, and as long as their work does not cause an intrusion into the service. If other photography, including videotaping, is desired this will need to be discussed with the Director of our Wedding Coordinators.

DRESSING ROOMS

A private room is provided for the bride's party. The groom's party will come to All Saints' dressed for the ceremony, and if necessary a separate room/area can be made available for them. Members of the wedding party should be present no earlier than two hours before the wedding. The bride's party should be dressed thirty minutes before the service. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are permitted in the dressing rooms, or on the All Saints' campus before, during, or after the wedding, and no food or drink is allowed in the Nave or the Chapel.

REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is usually held at 4:00pm on the day before the wedding. This rehearsal is under the direction of the All Saints' clergy, assisted by the Wedding Coordinators. The purpose is to rehearse the wedding service and ceremonial so that all involved will be familiar with the space and comfortable with their participation. Usually only the immediate members of the families and the wedding party attend. Please allow plenty of travel time to arrive at the Church on time.

Rehearsals start on time. Please be prompt.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Cell Phones and Pagers:** Please advise your guests to turn off all electronic devices prior to the beginning of the wedding. Such devices are very disruptive during the service.
- **Pets and Animals:** Other than sight and hearing assistance dogs, no animals are allowed in the Church during the service.
- **Receiving Line:** This is untimely immediately after the wedding and should be delayed to the place of the reception.

THE LICENSE AND CHURCH REGISTER

The marriage license must be brought to the Church Office at least seven days before the rehearsal. A marriage cannot take place without the receipt of the marriage license. The Church's marriage register, together with the license will be signed by the bride, groom and witnesses following the ceremony. After the wedding day All Saints' will forward the license, duly signed and sealed, to the County for recording.

PAYMENT

Fees should be paid when the marriage license is brought to the Church Office, at least seven days before the wedding.

**WEDDING FEES AND DONATIONS
MEMBERS**

Registered Members of All Saints’:

A Member is defined as a parishioner who attends regularly, contributes to the life of the parish, and whose baptism is duly recorded in this parish.

	NAVE		CHAPEL
Donation:	\$ 750	Donation:	\$ 300
Fees:	\$ 650	Fees:	\$ 550
Priest’s Discretionary Fund	\$ 350	Priest’s Discretionary Fund	\$ 350
Total	\$1750	Total	\$1200

In addition to these fees:

If you request additional All Saints’ clergy to participate in the service, then there will be a payment of \$150 to each additional priest’s Discretionary Fund. (The priest’s Discretionary Fund allows our clergy to provide assistance to the poor and those in need, who they would not otherwise be able to help.)

Optional Items and Charges

If the altar flowers requested exceed All Saints’ usual arrangements, then additional fees will apply.

**WEDDING FEES AND DONATIONS
NON-MEMBERS**

Please note: a member is defined as a parishioner who attends regularly, contributes to the life of the parish, and whose baptism is duly recorded in this parish.

	NAVE		CHAPEL
Donation:	\$1500	Donation:	\$1200
Fees:	\$ 650	Fees:	\$ 550
Priest's Discretionary Fund	\$ 500	Priest's Discretionary Fund	\$ 500
Total	\$2650	Total	\$2250

In addition to these fees:

If you request additional All Saints' clergy to participate in the service, then there will be a payment of \$250 to each additional priest's Discretionary Fund.

Optional Items and Charges

If the altar flowers requested exceed All Saints' usual arrangements, then additional fees will apply.

PLEASE BRING YOUR PAYMENT AND MARRIAGE LICENSE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR WEDDING DAY.

CHECK LIST FOR WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL SAINTS'

- ❖ *First inquiry to the Church Office*
- ❖ *Read through this Marriage information booklet*
- ❖ *Preliminary meeting(s) with a priest*
- ❖ *If it is decided by the priest to proceed with the wedding at All Saints', then during an early meeting with the priest, complete an "Application for Marriage" form (Also, if applicable, fill out divorce paperwork)*
- ❖ *Complete the "Declaration of Intention" form*
- ❖ *Set a date on the Church calendar with the priest*
- ❖ *Set dates with the priest for pre-marital counseling*
- ❖ *Contact the Director of the Wedding Coordinators regarding practical arrangements in the Church*
- ❖ *Meet with the Director of Music regarding music for the service*
- ❖ *Speak with the Communications Office regarding the service leaflet*
- ❖ *Bring marriage license and fees to the Church Office one week before the wedding day*
- ❖ *Rehearsal*
- ❖ *Wedding Day*

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

READINGS FOR THE FIRST AND OPTIONAL SECOND READINGS

(ONE OLD TESTAMENT AND / OR ONE NEW TESTAMENT TO BE CHOSEN)

Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version

GENESIS 1:26-28 *(Male and female he created them)*

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, 15-24 *(A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)*

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.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:10-13, 8:6-7 *(Many waters cannot quench love)*

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 *(That she and I may grow old together)*

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.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 *(Love is patient and kind)*

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 *(The Father from whom every family is named)*

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 *(Walk in love, as Christ loved us)*

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.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9 *(The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding)*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 *(Love which binds everything together in harmony)*

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 *(Let us love one another for love is of God)*

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.

PSALMS

(ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MAY BE CHOSEN)

PSALM 127

- 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

- 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.

PSALM 67

- 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.

GOSPEL READINGS

(ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO BE CHOSEN)

MATTHEW 5:1-10 *(The Beatitudes)*

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."

JOHN 15:9-12 (*Love one another as I have loved you*)

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.”

MATTHEW 5:13-16 (*You are the light . . . let your light so shine*)

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.”

MATTHEW 7:21, 24-29 (*Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock*)

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.

MARK 10:6-9, 13-16 (*They are no longer two, but one*)

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.

These additional readings are included in the liturgy, “*The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant.*”

READINGS FOR THE FIRST AND OPTIONAL SECOND READINGS

(ONE OLD TESTAMENT AND / OR ONE NEW TESTAMENT TO BE CHOSEN)

Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version

Ruth 1:16-17
1 Samuel 18:1b, 3, 20:16-17, 42a; *or* 1 Samuel 18:1-4
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Song of Solomon 2:10-13, 8:6-7
Micah 4:1-4
Romans 12:9-18
1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13
2 Corinthians 5:17-20
Galatians 5:14, 22-26
Ephesians 3:14-21
Colossians 3:12-17
1 John 3:18-24
1 John 4:7-16, 21

PSALMS

(ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MAY BE CHOSEN)

Psalms 65
Psalm 67
Psalm 85:7-13
Psalm 98
Psalm 100
Psalm 126
Psalm 127
Psalm 133
Psalm 148
Psalm 149:1-5

GOSPEL READINGS

(ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO BE CHOSEN)

Matthew 5:1-16
Mark 12:28-34
Luke 6:32-38
John 15:9-17
John 17:1-2, 18-26

CONTACT INFORMATION

To request a wedding or blessing at All Saints',
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