



The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage **St. Michael & All Angels Church**

“We come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of these two persons in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people. ... Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.”

--The Book of Common Prayer

A wedding is a joyful celebration of a lifelong Christian union which St. Michael's supports in a number of ways. As a sacrament, Holy Matrimony is, in part, about the union of two individuals in God. It is also about the couple's relationship to God in Christian community, specifically in the community of this parish. Over the years, a marriage that is lived out in the church community has the opportunity to deepen spiritually through the ongoing sacramental life of the church, education of adults and children, involvement in ministry, pastoral care through life's joys and difficulties, learning about the stewardship of God-given resources, fellowship with other Christians, and support for the family's life of prayer. If you do not already attend St. Michael's Church, we encourage you to do so before your wedding to begin making this your church home. In the long run, you will be glad you did so, and your marriage will be stronger for it!

To begin a conversation about being married, please contact one of the clergy. Weddings are scheduled with their approval. Your preferred date may not be available depending on clergy availability or the parish calendar, but we will do our best to accommodate you in order to help you plan appropriately.

Pre-Marriage Preparation

Counseling prior to your ceremony is done with one of the clergy. These sessions provide an opportunity to explore your relationship with each other, the meaning of Christian marriage, any issues which need to be addressed prior to marriage, and also to plan the ceremony. Normally there are three to five sessions, and all parties enter into this process with the understanding that any one of them may decide for whatever reason not to proceed with the wedding. **Formal Requirements**

The officiant (clergy) at a wedding acts as an officer of the State of New Mexico, and so must abide by all applicable laws. The couple is responsible for obtaining a valid Marriage License from Bernalillo County, and for presenting it to the officiant before the wedding (usually at the rehearsal). The officiant is then responsible for returning it to the County Clerk. Certain pastoral canons of the church also pertain, which the clergy will explain in the course of the pre-marriage preparation.

The Wedding Service

Weddings are conducted according to *The Book of Common Prayer* (p. 422) or *The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant*. Both services provide for considerable flexibility. The clergy will assist you in planning and making choices about the service, including the choice of whether to include a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. (In this church, all persons are invited to share in receiving Holy Communion.) Because the service is a religious occasion, wedding consultants do not participate in its planning or execution.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal for the wedding is usually held the day before, at a time convenient to all involved. All those who have a role in the wedding should attend, and others may attend as desired. The Marriage License should be presented to the officiant at this time.

Dressing

St. Michael's does not have a fully equipped space for the dressing of the wedding party. The choir rehearsal room in the church building or Pavilion may be available if desired. Large bathrooms are near both rooms. Electrical outlets are limited in the choir room and bathrooms.

Flowers and Decorations

Flowers may be used in various locations, but not directly on the altar. If you choose to do so, you may ask that our Liturgical Arts Guild prepare an arrangement for the service that will be left in the church for Sunday services. If you choose this option, please inform the Parish Administrator in advance so that the flowers can be arranged to complement the marriage as well as the Sunday services.

Celebratory Accessories

Please—no rice, bubble making soap, birdseed or other potentially hazardous materials are to be used. Flower petals may be strewn in the aisle as the wedding party enters the church.

Weddings in the Church

St. Michael's is not a "wedding venue," but a socially diverse and theologically progressive community of faith. We will happily talk with anyone about marriage, and we prioritize services for people who seeking faith, or who are already members of the Episcopal Church. The clergy have full discretion whether to marry a couple.

Photography

Approval of any photography or video must be discussed with clergy prior to the ceremony. Video or photographs may be taken during the service only from stationary points, with no lights or flash. Please be sure that your photographer understands not to wander about during the service. We also encourage your guests to lay their cell phones and cameras aside to be "in the moment," and not to be preoccupied with taking pictures. We also suggest that formal portraits be taken before rather than after the service, in order not to delay the reception.

Music

St. Michael's has a tradition of using a variety of musical styles. A musician is available to play the organ or piano, and a soloist may be available, or you may wish to consider an acoustic ensemble. The clergy can help you explore the options, and put you in touch with the appropriate people. We discourage the use of recorded music, which usually turns out to be more distracting than edifying.

Reception

The Parish Hall and adjacent courtyard have limited space and facilities but may be available for very simple receptions (e.g. those without a full meal or dancing). Arrangements should be made through the office Administrator.

The alcohol policies of St. Michael's state that alcohol will only be served in moderate amounts, and should an individual become intoxicated, the event sponsor will refuse them further alcohol and provide them a ride home. The policy also requires that no minors are served alcohol and that an equally attractive nonalcoholic beverage is provided for all. We require that you hire a licensed/ insured server to serve alcohol for you. All decorations must be approved by the Parish Administrator to be sure our facility can accommodate your plans.

Service Bulletin

The clergy and administrative staff will work with you on creating a bulletin for your ceremony.

Checklist in preparation for your wedding at St. Michael & All Angels

*Please tear out this section and return it to the
Parish Administrator*

Full name and contact information of both spouses. (Please print)

Name: _____

Religious affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____ email: _____

Name: _____

Religious affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____ email: _____

Full names of your witnesses:

We record all ceremonies in our Parish Register, which is an historic document. Please be accurate in how you want names to be recorded.

Date of Ceremony: _____ **Time:** _____

Time you will arrive that day and need the church opened: _____

Date of Rehearsal: _____ **Time:** _____

Attendance:

How many guests do you anticipate? _____

Will your ceremony include Holy Eucharist? _____

How many attendants do you plan to have for each spouse? _____

Service Bulletin

Do you wish St. Michael's to prepare a bulletin? _____

Music

Are you requesting a St. Michael's musician(s)? _____

Flowers

Is St. Michael's preparing your flowers which you are leaving for Sunday Services?

_____ If not, who is your florist? _____

Reception

When and where is your reception? _____

Financial arrangements and payment of fees

Arrangements for fees and other matters are made with our Parish Administrator prior to the ceremony. Final payment is due in the office two weeks prior to the event. Please complete the attached information form at your earliest convenience so that an appropriate invoice can be prepared. (Please note that according to IRS rules, these payments are not tax deductible, though you may choose to make an additional voluntary thank offering that would be.)

Basic Fee

Our wedding fee is \$750.00. This fee covers the counseling sessions with the clergy, cleaning fees, administrative and staff expenses, utilities, and general building use. The officiant does not normally receive an honorarium.

Additional fees:

Reception in the Parish Hall, including

Use of kitchen, set up of tables and chairs	\$250
Event host for reception	\$100
Flowers (left for Sunday)	Actual cost
Service bulletin	\$100
St. Michael's musicians	
Organist/pianist or ensemble,	
Wedding only	\$150 or
Wedding and rehearsal	\$250
Soloist	\$75

If finances would prohibit you from proceeding with your ceremony plans at St. Michael's, please discuss this with your clergy person, keeping in mind the comparative decisions you make regarding the other costs of the wedding and reception.

***Please feel free to ask any additional questions you may have,
either of the Clergy or Parish Administrator.***

And may God bless you as you prepare to celebrate your marriage!

St. Michael's Sunday Worship Schedule

- 7:30 am Quiet and simple
- 9:00 am Choir, lively service, Children's Chapel
- 11:15 am Traditional with music and hymns



Visit our website, www.all-angels.com, for sermons, information about our church, and upcoming activities.

Like us on Facebook at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

**St. Michael & All Angels Church
601 Montano Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
505.345.8147**

St. Michael's is a parish of The Episcopal Church.

October 2022