

# **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**

## **Wedding Brochure**

We at St Timothy's are delighted that you are seeking God's blessing on your marriage and will do all we can to make your wedding day holy, gracious and beautiful. We will also welcome conversation for creativity.

All marriages are a legal occasion and must conform to the laws of the state in which they are performed. It may also be a social occasion when family and friends gather together, borrowing from a rich array of customs and traditions.

A Christian wedding, however, is far more than a legal or social event; it is above all a service of worship. It is a sacramental rite called the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in the Book of Common Prayer – an event whereby the grace and love of God is given and made known through the words and actions of the people.

Each couple must meet the basic requirements established by the Canons (rules) of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of San Diego, and the practices of this parish. These guidelines are meant to help you plan for a beautiful beginning to your marriage and we encourage you to ask any questions that may arise.

### **OVERVIEW OF WEDDINGS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S**

Wedding ceremonies at St. Timothy's are available to members of St. Timothy's and their families, as well as couples living in the area that are planning to join St. Timothy's family. In addition to providing wedding services to members of our Episcopal Diocese, we will consider providing wedding services to couples that are members of another Diocese; or those who, though not Episcopalians, are active members of another Christian community. We are also willing to work with couples embarking on an inter-faith marriage provided one of them is a baptized Christian. One member of any couple must be baptized.

All weddings at St. Timothy's are under the direction of our Rector, The Rev. Dr. Wilfredo Crespo, the members of his staff, and the Facility Coordinator. Any decisions about your wedding must be made in consultation with them.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant. In the Episcopal Church it is required that:

At least one member of the couple is a baptized Christian

The ceremony is attested to by at least two witnesses

You must meet with the Priest to discuss your intention to marry at least 90 days prior to the date you wish to marry.

A minimum of six sessions of *Pre-Marital Counseling* is required. At these sessions, the priest will meet with the couple to guide them as they explore their relationship and their expectations for each other and their marriage. A discussion of Christian marriage will be included.

The couple will sign a *Declaration of Intent* to enter, with God's help, into a Christian marriage and to establish a Christian home.

The marriage must conform to the laws of the State of California and the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

## DIVORCE

The Church's attitude about divorce is pastoral in nature. We are concerned only that previous misjudgments do not happen again. If you have been divorced, a court certified copy of your final divorce decree must be in the hands of the priest more than 45 days before the wedding. The priest must petition the Bishop at least 30 days prior to the ceremony. Our Bishop requires applicants be residents of San Diego, and for **one year** to have passed from the date of the **filing** of the Petition for Divorce. If a person has been divorced twice, at least **two years** must have passed since the **filing** of the Petition for Divorce. (The Bishop will not approve the marriage of a person who has been divorced three or more times.) **A date for the proposed marriage should not be set until the Bishop has granted permission.**

## SCHEDULING AND RESERVING A DATE FOR YOUR WEDDING

The date for your wedding must be cleared with the Clergy and the Director of Music. Please contact the parish office at 858-538-1267 to determine availability. Normally weddings are not celebrated during Holy Week.

Father Wilfredo Crespo is the Rector at St. Timothy's who will officiate at your wedding. Other Episcopal Clergy, with the approval of the Rector, may officiate or assist. Clergy of other denominations may participate with the approval of the Rector, however, St. Timothy's Rector will officiate for the exchange of vows, the rings, and final blessing.

A down payment of **25%**, along with the completed **Information Sheet** and **Declaration of Intent**, must be made to secure a date on our calendar within a week of reserving the church. Please call our Facility Coordinator Barbara Manson at 858-521-9495. The Facility Coordinator, appointed by the Rector and a member of St. Timothy's, will work with you to make sure all aspects of your wedding run smoothly. The Coordinator knows our routine and will be present at the rehearsal and wedding to help guide the wedding party, families, and guests through the ceremony. If you chose to use our courtyard after the ceremony, the coordinator will also help guide you through that aspect of your wedding day.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

There will be six pre-marital counseling sessions prior to your wedding. Once your wedding date has been scheduled and secured, you should make arrangements with the Rector for these six sessions.

## FACILITY

All marriages will be held in the main sanctuary at St. Timothy's. The church can accommodate - 235 guests. There is an audio system for the hearing impaired and the church is handicap accessible.

## LICENSE

You must make an appointment with the San Diego County Clerk (619-237-0502) and present a valid government issued photo ID, submit a marriage license application (available online) and pay the required fee. Once a license is issued, you have 90 days to have a ceremony performed. Blood work is not required in the state of California. You should have your license in the church office at least 10 days before the ceremony.

## WEDDING REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is usually the evening before the day of the wedding. All members of the wedding party, family members, and all wedding participants must attend and ***must be on time***. A person who is intoxicated will not be allowed to participate in the rehearsal or the wedding. The Priest is in charge of the rehearsal, with the assistance of the Music Director and Facility Coordinator and takes approximately one hour.

## WEDDING PARTY

You will need a minimum of two people to act as witnesses, and may, of course, have additional attendants. If a flower girl is used, we do not allow the throwing of petals, real or otherwise, on the carpet.

## WEDDING SERVICE

The Sacrament of Marriage is a service of worship in the church. The order of the wedding service will be "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage" from the Book of Common Prayer. Family members and friends are encouraged to participate in the liturgy. The Church also encourages the celebration of the Holy Eucharist as part of the marriage ceremony. It is fitting and lovely for the first meal as a couple to be at the Lord's Table. When Holy Communion is included it is offered to all the guests attending. Any wedding programs or bulletins must meet with the approval of the priest before being printed. Bulletins for a small wedding may be produced by the church office if requested with adequate time.

## MUSIC

The music for a wedding at St. Timothy's is provided by the Music Director. Wedding music must be sacred music and must be approved by the Director of Music. Please contact him as soon as possible to discuss selections that provide the beauty, dignity and reverence you want for your wedding. Any vocal soloist or other musicians must be approved by the Music Director. Fees for any soloists are to be handled and set at the discretion of the Music Director.

## FLOWERS

Members of the Flower Guild are responsible for flower arrangements for your wedding day. We will have a member of the Flower Guild contact you. These flowers, which will be used for the Sunday service, must remain in the Church after the wedding. The only candles in the sanctuary (altar area) will be the ones normally used during worship. Aisle runners are not used at St. Timothy's because of safety concerns. No birdseed, rice, paper confetti or flower petals may be thrown on church property.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The choice of photographer is up to you, subject to the approval of the priest. Photographs during the ceremony must use available light and be taken from the rear of the church. One flash photograph may be taken as the bride/couple walks down the aisle at the beginning of the service and as the couple walks back at the end of the service. Otherwise flash photography is not permitted during the service. Posed photographs of the wedding party may be taken before and after the service. After the service the photo session is limited to 45 minutes.

## VIDEOS

Videotaping may be done with available light from a stationary camera. The priest must approve the location of the camera.

## DOCUMENTS AND FINAL PAYMENT

The marriage license and final payment of all fees must be brought to the parish office at least 10 days prior to the wedding. We suggest you make an appointment with the priest to handle these last minute details.

## DEFINITIONS

**CLERGY** – Only ordained or licensed clergy of a recognized religious body may officiate at weddings at St. Timothy's.

**MEMBER OF ST. TIMOTHY'S**- Members are those who have been regularly attending services at St. Timothy's over the previous six months, have joined the congregation, pledged and have fulfilled their pledge for at least the previous six months. Children of members are considered to be members and can be married at St. Timothy's under the member status even if they now live in another community.

## FEES

The fee for church members is \$1500, inclusive; and the fee for guests or non-members is \$2500, inclusive.

Items included in the inclusive fee:

- a. Premarital counseling services
- b. The use of the church for both the rehearsal and the ceremony
- c. The services of the officiating clergy
- d. The services of the sexton, who prepares the church for the wedding
- e. The services of the flower guild and altar guild
- f. The services of the music director
- g. The services of the facility coordinator who will assist you in planning your wedding, be present for both the rehearsal and the wedding; and help with anything you might require

Items not included in the inclusive fee:

- a. Personal flowers for the wedding party
- b. Soloist fees or other special music beyond what is provided above
- c. Photography
- d. Bulletin or Program (with a very small wedding a Bulletin may be provided)

## ST. TIMOTHY'S TERRACE

We have a Terrace, adjacent to our Rose Garden and the church building, that can be used for a reception following the ceremony. The Terrace is covered with a lovely retractable awning and can accommodate up to 70 seated guests. We can provide 60 inch round tables with 90 inch round tablecloths in either black or white. We have white resin style chairs with padded seats. Three propane gas heaters are also available if needed. We can provide a portable microphone with speaker that has the capability to play music. Our breezeway can be used for buffet tables with room for one or two musicians. We also have a small kitchen for limited use. Pictures are available to show you the set up. You would be responsible for your own catering service and we can make a recommendation for a caterer we have used.

If you prefer walking and mingling only on the Terrace, for a cake and champagne reception, we have 8 bar style tables with black spandex style table covers that would work nicely.

Fees and details regarding St. Timothy's Terrace are available upon request.

## Weddings Outside of the Church (for example, beach, park or other facility)

If you would like our Rector to officiate at a wedding that takes place at an alternate location, the same rules apply regarding the "Requirement for Marriage" as well as "Documents and Final Payment". Additional rules such as, participants not drinking alcohol before the service on the day of the wedding apply. The fee associated with engaging with the clergy in preparation and officiating is \$ 900 minimum, though in some cases, with a more elaborate affair, a higher contribution may be appropriate.