



# ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

## THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE AT ST. ALBAN'S



St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016  
202-363-8286  
[www.stalbansdc.org](http://www.stalbansdc.org)

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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## Introduction

Weddings are among life's greatest moments: the gathering of families, a time of good wishes, feasting and joy. More important, they are sacramental because they are visible signs of the love that two people share, of their willingness to trust that love and share their lives, and of their commitment to stand by each other through the uncertainties of the future. A wedding or covenant union marks a change in relationship – a lifelong commitment that “should not be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with God's word.” (BCP p. 424)

Holy Matrimony is personal, but not private. Rather, it is a public, legal, and holy event. As such, it is part of the witness of the Church to the world. The community at St. Alban's Episcopal Church believes that it is a privilege to be a part of this important and joyful time in a family's life. In a church ceremony, we pray that God will bless the couple so that their relationship will become a source of life-giving love that will strengthen and empower them to meet their own needs, the needs of their family, and the needs of the world.

When a couple seeks to be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Alban's, the expectations are that at least one of them is a baptized Christian, that both are serious about their relationship with God, and that they are committed to be faithful to one another and to life in community.

## General Information

St. Alban's celebrates the sacrament of marriage and covenant blessing for members as well as for potential members of the parish, and for those who are children of members. Potential members are people who will live in the DC metropolitan area and are in the process of becoming a member of St. Alban's. Neither person is required to be an Episcopalian while the ceremony is being planned. Weddings at St. Alban's tend to take place on Saturdays (although other days of the week are possible), between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. within the limits of scheduled parish events. St. Alban's does not hold ceremonies during the season of Lent or other designated fast days (the 40 days before Easter and Fridays except during the Easter Season) or Advent (the weeks before Christmas).

Rehearsals are scheduled for the day before the ceremony, usually late in the afternoon. Please consult with the officiating priest and the office before setting the time of the rehearsal.

St. Alban's clergy and staff work directly with the principals. Outside wedding planners and coordinators, while useful for helping with the reception and other arrangements, do not have a role in the church. One of the clergy on the parish staff will officiate at the ceremony. We are happy to invite clergy who are family friends of the couple to participate in the service.

## **To schedule a ceremony at St. Alban's:**

Read the information in this booklet and return the information we will need of the wedding register (at the back of this booklet) to the clergy you would like to officiate at your service. If you are not a member of St. Alban's, you must attach a letter to your application stating your commitment to join our new members classes. We will generally schedule weddings six months or more prior to the desired dates in order to allow enough time for planning and preparation. If you have a unique or special circumstance, explain it to us, and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please keep this booklet. It will answer many of your questions and help you with your planning.

## **Planning Your Ceremony**

### **Pre-ceremonial Preparation**

The Episcopal Church requires that all couples who wish to be joined in the Church give consideration to the seriousness of the commitment in pre-ceremonial preparation with a priest or pastoral counselor. By the time a couple has decided that they are ready to make a lifelong commitment to one another, they will obviously have done a lot of talking about their lives, expectations, hopes, and dreams. The preparation is intended to help clarify those expectations and identify the areas of difficulty as well as the strengths brought to the union. These are important questions to discuss because, like most things worth doing, marriage is a challenge as well as a gift, and knowing your resources is essential. As you enter the process of planning a ceremony, it is worth starting by reading the service in The Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 423. We suggest that invitations not be mailed until the conclusion of the pre-marital preparation, although hold-the-date announcements are fine.

### **When One or Both Have Been Divorced**

Scripture states, and the Church has taught, that Holy Matrimony is intended to be a lifelong commitment; however, we are imperfect people living in an imperfect world. The safeguards designed to support the institutions of marriage do not always work; furthermore, the negative consequences of living in a destructive or dysfunctional union may outweigh those of dissolution. The commands of Scripture need to be considered within the context of redemption, forgiveness and new life.

However, the issues that brought about the dissolution of one union may have the power to damage to a subsequent union unless dealt with in a redemptive way. This reality needs to be given serious consideration in pre-ceremonial preparation. It is also important to be aware of the complex inter-connectedness of a union that extends to others, especially when there are children involved. Those contemplating a second marriage or covenant union in the Episcopal Church may have to complete counseling with a trained therapist (the officiating priest will make this determination). The officiating clergy person will have to receive permission to Bless the Marriage from the Bishop of the Diocese of Washington at least 30 days prior to the ceremony. After the completion of the pre-ceremonial counseling, and having received a copy

of the final Decree of Divorce (or equivalent legal document), the officiating priest will write the Bishop requesting permission.

## The Service

At St. Alban's, we celebrate marriages according to *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage*, which begins on page 423 in The Book of Common Prayer. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has authorized a separate rite for those in same-gender relationships. The officiating priest will work with you to select appropriate readings from scripture. (Some suggested readings are found in this booklet).

## Music

The Parish's Director of Music, who oversees all music and musicians for weddings, will work with you to plan the music. The Director of Music will do everything possible to accommodate your requests. If you would like other musicians and/or vocalists to take part in the ceremony, please discuss this with the Director of Music, who can assist and advise you.

## Flowers and Church Decorations

St. Alban's Flower Guild is responsible for all decorations in and around the church. Specific information can be found in the Flower section of this booklet.

## Ceremony Programs

We have a standard program design that we can produce for you at no extra charge. Ask the Parish Administrator to show you samples. All information for the program must be submitted on the Service Planner found at the back of this booklet and returned to the Parish Administrator no later than two weeks before the ceremony. We strongly encourage you to have St. Alban's staff prepare the program, but if it is important to you to use your own design, please send the Parish Administrator a draft of your proposed program before it is printed.

## Invitations

The proper designation for indicating the location of the ceremony on your invitation is: St. Alban's Episcopal Church 3001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20016

## Photography

Photography, videotaping, and audio-recording during the service may not interfere with the tone and movement of the service. You may re-enact certain portions of the service, if you desire, after the service is over. We require that you limit your photography time to 20 minutes following the service since the staff and volunteers must clean and prepare the church for other services. Please wait to hold the receiving line at the reception site. Photographers and videographers may stand at the back of the church or in the balcony and use available-light film. No flash pictures or distracting movements while the ceremony is in progress. Please let all photographers know about our policies. Ceremony guests will be asked not to take photographs during the service. Any questions should be discussed with the clergy during the

pre-marital counseling. If you wish to schedule photography in the Bishop's Garden , please call Sunny Betts in the Cathedral Communications Office at (202) 537-5756.

## Dressing

If any members of the wedding party require a place to change clothes, please call the Director of Operations at 202-363-8286, extension 207, to reserve rooms.

## Parking

Fee parking is available in the National Cathedral parking garage.

## Marriage License

The District of Columbia Superior Court Marriage Bureau, at 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Room 4485, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The telephone numbers are 202-879-4840 and 202-879-4843. The Officiant (clergy) must receive the marriage license, along with the return envelope that accompanies it, no later than the rehearsal for the wedding (usually the day before). Please note that it is illegal for us to proceed with a ceremony unless the clergy have the license in hand.

## Reception

Since St. Alban's is located on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral, there are a number of sites on the Cathedral Close where a reception might be held. These include: (a) Satterlee Hall or Nourse Hall at St. Alban's Church. Call the Director of Operations at 202-363 8286 to schedule and complete a contract. (b) Hearst Hall at the National Cathedral School for Girls. Call 202-537-6300. (c) The Refectory at St. Albans School for Boys. Call 202-537-5594. (d) The Cathedral College. Call the Operations Manager at 202-537-6380.

## Cost \*

There is no fee for the sacraments of the Church. There are however costs associated with a ceremony at St. Alban's of \$3,000 (payable to St. Alban's Church) for persons who have been pledging members of this parish for at least a year before the ceremony. For others, the fee is \$4,200 (suggesting an introductory commitment of \$100 per month or \$1200 per year.) This covers required altar flowers provided and arranged by St. Alban's Flower Guild, and the cost of producing the bulletin. The Director of Music will have the first option on playing and arranging music for weddings and funerals at St. Alban's (and arrange for suitable substitutes if required), at a rate of \$400 for a wedding. \$400 includes a meeting prior to the ceremony for formulating musical choices and any additional rehearsals required. Special music and specific flower requests may incur additional costs. You can discuss this when you meet with the Director of Music and the Flower Coordinator. *All fees are to be paid to the church no later than ten days before the date of the wedding.*

You are welcome to offer the officiating clergy an honorarium or make a gift to her or his Discretionary Fund but, while such gifts are gratefully received, none is required or expected.

*\* We will not turn anyone away from a sacrament for financial reasons. If you are unable to afford these fees, we will work with you to agree upon reduced fees.*



## The Time Line

6 months – 1 year before the ceremony: Contact a member of the clergy about scheduling your wedding and the pre-marital preparation, including planning the service. 2 weeks before the ceremony: The Service Planner and all payments should be received by the Parish Administrator.

1 week before the ceremony: Deliver your marriage license to the Officiating priest.

## Whom to Call

For general information: Director of Operations, Charles Porter, 202-363-8286, ext. 207

For music information/planning: Director of Music, Matthew Steynor, 202-363-8286, ext. 205

For programs (bulletins): Communications Director, Mery Montenegro, [merym@stalbandsdc.org](mailto:merym@stalbandsdc.org)

For receptions and room reservations: Director of Operations, Charles Porter, 202-363-8286, ext. 207, [charlesp@stalbandsdc.org](mailto:charlesp@stalbandsdc.org)

Flower Coordinators: Katie Wilson, 202-244-0490; Caroline McLoughlin, 202-966-6212

## Flowers

The celebration of Christian marriage or covenant blessing is a holy occasion, and flowers in the church support a ceremony's spiritual purpose. The beauty, fragrance, and texture of flowers at a ceremony symbolize God's creation and love, and the abundance of God's blessing upon the principals. St. Alban's church architecture is in the Oxford tradition, typical of many English parish churches of the 19th century. Simplicity in flower arrangements complements the church's traditional interior.

Flower arrangements for weddings are provided by St. Alban's Flower Guild, which is solely responsible for all flowers and decorations in, on, and around the church. The Guild is composed of members of the parish community who volunteer their. Guild members are trained in the floral arts but are not professional floral artists. Once your application has been received and accepted by St. Alban's Parish Administrator, please contact one of the Wedding Flower Coordinators to plan your flowers. St. Alban's does not allow outside florists to adorn the church. The Guild is not responsible for personal flowers for the participants or the reception, although names of designers for personal flowers can be suggested upon request.

The liturgical season may affect the options for flowers. Petals, birdseed, rice or confetti may not be scattered in or around the church. Directional signage is not allowed in or around the church. Though rare, occasionally two ceremonies are held on a given day. In that case, participants are encouraged to coordinate their colors and floral designs, and share the cost. If they cannot agree, then all arrangements will be white. Due to limitations on the church and its



volunteers, the Flower Guild may not be able to fulfill all requests for flowers other than those on the Altar.

The Altar and St. John's Chapel arrangements must stay in the church after the ceremony. At a cost of \$25, other arrangements, such as pedestal arrangements and pew bows, may be taken with you if plans have been made in advance.

### **Floral arrangements and estimated costs**

Altar -included.

Floral pedestal \$200

Narthex medallion \$75

Narthex medallion w/2 side medallions \$150

Narthex round table \$60

Stair railing marker \$50

Stair railing bow \$20

Pew torches w/flowers & candles \$30 each

Pew torches w/candles \$10 each

Pew torches w/flowers \$45 each (limit 4)

Pew bows w/greens & baby's breath \$15 each (limit 10)

Pew bows \$15 each

Floral pew markers \$20 each

Choir stall pew markers \$60 each

Door arrangements \$60 each

Floor candelabras \$75 pair

NOTE: Large arrangements, certain floral designs and/or request for premium flowers (e.g., roses, lilies, orchids, peonies, lilacs, etc.) may increase the cost.

## Suggested Scripture Readings

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible, unless otherwise noted. Choose one reading from each section. If you only want two readings, choose no more than one from each section. If the Eucharist is part of your ceremony, one reading must be from the Gospels. Our clergy will work with you if you desire to choose other Scripture passages that are important to you.

### Old Testament

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

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible) (That she and I may grow old together)

### New Testament

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

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

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Romans 12: 9-21 (Let love be genuine)

Revelation 19: 6-9 (Let us rejoice and exult)

### Psalms

Psalms 67

Psalms 127

Psalms 128

### Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light ... Let your light so shine)

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

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

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

## Old Testament

**Genesis 1:26-28** Then 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** 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** 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 throughout the 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** (New English Bible) Tobias began by praying: "God of our ancestors, we praise your name; all future generations will praise you as well. Heaven and the rest of creation should always praise you. You made Adam and said, 'It isn't good for the man to live alone. So we will make a suitable partner for him, someone like himself.' Then you gave him Eve, the perfect companion, and they were the source of the whole human race. I have married this

relative of mine not because of lust, but because of love. Please be kind and bless us with a long life together." Tobias and Sarah both said, "Amen!" and then went to sleep for the night.

## New Testament

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** 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** For this reason 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** Therefore 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.

**Colossians 3:12-17** 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** 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.

**Romans 12:9-21** Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Revelation 19:6-9** Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

## Psalm

**Psalm 67** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

**Psalm 128** Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots

**Psalm 127** Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved. Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. around your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

## Gospel

**Matthew 5:1-10** 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..

**Matthew 5:13-16** "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** "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** Jesus said, "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.

**John 15:9-12** .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.

### **The Blessing of the Marriage (choose one form)**

BCP p. 430: Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP p. 431: O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



### **For Same-Gender Relationships**

Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus the Christ and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for *N.* and *N.*, and the covenant of faithfulness they have made. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your steadfast love; protect them from all danger; fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul.

God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Proposed date and time of service \_\_\_\_\_

## Marriage Information

St. Alban's Church  
3001 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016  
Tel: 202-363-8286 Fax: 202-363-6828  
Web site: [www.StAlbansDC.org](http://www.StAlbansDC.org)

You must complete and return this signed application to secure your desired date and time of service.

Full name of bride/partner #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Email #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Baptismal date \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

If Confirmed give, Confirmation date \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of mother and hometown

\_\_\_\_\_

Full name of father and hometown

\_\_\_\_\_

Full name of groom/partner #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Baptismal date \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

If Confirmed give, Confirmation date \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of mother and hometown

\_\_\_\_\_

Full name of father and hometown

\_\_\_\_\_

Have either the bride or groom (or either partner) been previously married? .Yes .No

Is the bride/partner #1 a member of St. Alban's? .Yes .No

If no, indicate where you attend and refer back to Page 3.

Bride's or partner #1's church

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Is the groom/partner #2 a member of St. Alban's? .Yes .No

If no, indicate where you attend and refer back to Page 3.

Groom's or partner #2's  
church \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Have you scheduled pre-ceremonial counseling with one of St. Alban's clergy? .Yes .No

Signature of bride/partner #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

and/or

Signature of groom/partner #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this application to the relevant member of the clergy at: St. Alban's Church  
3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016, scan and email to [office@stalbandsdc.org](mailto:office@stalbandsdc.org), or  
Fax to 202-363-6828



# Service Planner

*This form may be completed in conversation with the officiating clergy person no later than 2 weeks before the date of the ceremony*

Please print clearly

Date and time of service \_\_\_\_\_

Number of expected guests \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of bride/partner #1 for cover of program

\_\_\_\_\_

Full name of groom/partner #2 for cover of program

\_\_\_\_\_

Names to be used during the service and in the program:

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number where you can be reached if we have any questions

\_\_\_\_\_

Clergy performing the ceremony

\_\_\_\_\_

Will the ceremony include presentation of the bride? BCP page 437 .Yes .No

Maid/Matron of honor/Partner #1 Representative Best Man/Partner #2 Representative

\_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Maids/Attendants for Partner #1 Groom's Attendants/Attendants for Partner #2

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl(s)/Boy(s) Ring Bearer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be Holy Eucharist? Yes No

If there will be Holy Eucharist, names of those presenting the bread and the wine (select two people) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If there will be Holy Eucharist, names of chalice bearers (principals or select two people)

Old Testament reading \_\_\_\_\_

Name of reader \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament reading \_\_\_\_\_

Name of reader \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of reader \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel reading \_\_\_\_\_

Name of reader \_\_\_\_\_

(If there will be Holy Eucharist, leave this one blank.)

Name of person reading prayers  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Book of Common Prayer offers two marriage blessings, which we have printed on page 13 of this booklet. Please select one: Page 430 or Page 431. (If you are here for a union ceremony, this is not relevant.)

Name(s) of soloists (if known)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of rehearsal. (in consultation with officiating clergy)  
\_\_\_\_\_

St. Alban's will produce programs, printed on beige linen paper. Provide a fax number or email address to send a proofing copy for your approval:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of programs needed \_\_\_\_\_



Check here \_\_\_\_ if you are having your programs printed elsewhere. Programs must be available for the rehearsal. This form must be completed and returned to the officiating member of the clergy no later than two weeks before the date of the ceremony.

St. Alban's Church

Parish Administrator/marriage

3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW Washington, DC 20016

Scan and email to [office@stalbandsdc.org](mailto:office@stalbandsdc.org), or Fax 202-363-6828



**Ceremony Flowers**

*To be completed with the Flower Coordinator*

Date and time of service \_\_\_\_\_

Number of expected guests \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of bride/partner #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Attire color(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of groom/partner #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Attire color(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Clergy performing the ceremony  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be Holy Eucharist? . Yes . No

Flower costs shared with \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated costs may increase depending on market conditions.

Altar: Design \_\_\_\_\_

Colors: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost for required Altar arrangements is included in the Basic Wedding Fee (Page 5). Flower requests above what is required will increase cost.

Additional Altar Flower requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Chancel: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Nave: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

St. John's Chapel: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Narthex: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Other flowers: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Sub total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Candles, including pew torches and candles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total candles \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ESTIMATE FOR CHURCH \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers needed for the reception (only if held at St. Alban's): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of either principal or a representative (specify relationship, e.g. mother, wedding planner, etc.) -----

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Flower Coordinator -----

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Guild team on duty for this wedding

---

NOTES:



**ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH**

3001 Wisconsin Ave NW / Washington DC 20016 / 202.363.8286 / [www.stalbansdc.org](http://www.stalbansdc.org)