



ST. LUKE'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

Wedding Customary / Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Includes information regarding a wedding at St. Luke's Episcopal Church



11 St. Luke's Lane
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-828-6425

The Rev. Irv Cutter, Rector

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**Wedding Customary Cover Artwork: Jacqui Read*

Introduction and Marriage in the Episcopal Church

Congratulations! Thank you for inquiring about celebrating your marriage at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. You have called St. Luke's to share with you the glory and celebration of a Christian marriage. "The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity."

(The Book of Common Prayer, p. 423)

Since your marriage will be a holy union, you have called upon the church to hear your vows in the presence of your family and friends who share the joy of the whole church on your happy day. It is our privilege to participate in the occasion with you.

When you choose St. Luke's for your ceremony, you acknowledge that a wedding is first and foremost a sacrament of the church and a worship service. It is expected that those who marry at St. Luke's will nurture their marriage in the context of a worshipping community.

The liturgy is meant to communicate the central tenets of what we believe to be true about the Christian marriage – the marriage is a reflection and incarnation of God's will for human persons in committed relationships, and that Christian marriages are both pronounced and lived out in the presence of a community of faith. Therefore, as The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) commends, "Marriage shall not be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God."

The clear intention of the canons of the Episcopal Church and the wedding ceremony itself testify to this belief that marriages which are solemnized in the church, long after the wedding day, continue to be nurtured within the context of a community of faith.

The administration of the Sacrament of Matrimony is governed by:

- The Canons of the Episcopal Church
- The rubrics of The Book of Common Prayer
- The directives of the Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas
- The policies of St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- The laws of the State of Texas

The Canons of the Episcopal Church require:

- At least 30 days (but preferably 90 days or more) notice before any wedding may occur
- The Bishop's consent for the second marriage of any person previously married whose former spouse is still living
- That each couple receive premarital instructions
- That at least one member of the couple be a baptized Christian

The following instructions, or "customary" because it details our customs, will assist you in planning your wedding and acquaint you with the established customs, traditions, and restrictions of St. Luke's. We want your wedding to be the most joyous and memorable celebration possible.

Weddings at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Membership

In order to be married at St. Luke's, it is customary that either one of the spouses-to-be, or parents, or grandparents of either, must be baptized, active members in good standing of this parish for at least one year prior to the time the wedding date is booked. Or, the couple is in the process of becoming a member and exhibits that through their regular attendance. Membership at St. Luke's consists of being confirmed or received by an Episcopal bishop, or having your letter of membership here. Additionally, membership is expressed through attendance in worship, participating in the ministry of the parish, and financial support at an appropriate level. Membership requirements may be discussed in more detail with the Rector or Officiating Priest.

The First Step

Your first contact at St. Luke's will be with the Ministry Support Associate who will schedule a preliminary meeting with the Rector or other clergy. It is important that **both** the spouses-to-be are present at that meeting. *The Officiating Priest's approval must be given before any arrangements involving the Church facilities can be placed on the church calendar.*

In addition, we require that this Wedding Customary be received and the terms acknowledged by both spouses-to-be. After receiving the Officiating Priest's approval and the signed Wedding Customary receipt, the date and time of the wedding will be confirmed and meetings with the Music Director and Wedding Coordinator will be scheduled. *No wedding date will be placed on the church calendar until a meeting with the Rector or Officiating Priest takes place.*

As per The Canons of the Episcopal Church, we do require a minimum of 30 day notice for a request of the marriage ceremony; however, it is wise to contact the church as far in advance as possible in order to guarantee that no scheduling conflicts occur (as early as one year before the wedding date).

Premarital Counseling

The Episcopal Church believes that adequate preparation is important in building a strong marriage. The goal of premarital counseling is not for the couple to prove to the priest that they love each other enough to get married. The goal of counseling is to help the couple start off strong. Counseling will cover areas such as: planning the service, roles and expectations, conflict, family history, budgeting, and raising children. These sessions may be led by one of the clergy or by a counselor. If the couple is from outside San Antonio, the Officiating Priest may recommend a priest or counselor in their area.

Remarriage of Divorced Person(s)

In the Episcopal Church (per the Canons) it is necessary for any priest to apply for and receive the Bishop's consent prior to officiating at a marriage in which either or both of the parties have been divorced. The Priest and divorced person(s) are required to submit a written request to the Bishop (at least 60 days prior to the wedding date), and it is frequently the case that more time is required for premarital counseling. This request process will be handled by the Priest and couple as part of premarital counseling.

Wedding Coordinator

The St. Luke's Wedding Coordinator is responsible for assisting the couple with the preparations and mechanics of the wedding as they pertain to the use of the church facilities as well as assisting the Officiating Priest and the Altar Guild with the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will meet with the couple as soon as possible before the wedding date to discuss and advise on all matters of wedding procedure in addition to the policies and customs of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

We welcome outside wedding consultants; however, it should be understood that they perform under the direction of our Wedding Coordinator, Altar Guild, and Clergy during the rehearsal and ceremony.

Date and Time of Wedding and Rehearsal

Typically, St. Luke's Episcopal Church does not allow marriages to be celebrated during the seasons of Lent (from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day), Sundays, holidays or holiday weekends. Special circumstances can be discussed with the Rector.

Customarily, weddings are performed on Saturdays, beginning no later than 7:00 p.m. in the evening. However, weddings may be scheduled for any day and time during the week that is convenient for the both the couple and the Officiating Priest, and does not conflict with existing services and commitments.

Children in the Wedding Party

Couples who wish to have young children participate in the wedding should be mindful of the responsibilities required of both children and adults during the service. This can be discussed with the Officiating Priest and Wedding Coordinator.

The Wedding Rehearsal

All weddings in the church require a rehearsal usually held on the day or evening prior to the ceremony and begins no later than 6:00 p.m. The Rehearsal will last no longer than one hour. We ask that the **entire** wedding party **and** the parents of **both** spouses-to-be as well as those to be formally seated be in attendance at the Rehearsal. It is important that the wedding party arrive promptly at the appointed time, and the Rehearsal should last no more than one (1) hour from the time it begins. The Officiating Priest, Organist, and Wedding Coordinator will attend and conduct the Rehearsal.

Please bring the following items to the Rehearsal:

- **Marriage License** (see next section, page 5-6)
- Guest Books
- Wedding Programs

At the time of the Rehearsal the spouses-to-be and two (2) witnesses will be asked to sign the Church register.

Marriage License

A marriage license is the instrument that conveys to the Priest the authority of the State of Texas to officiate at the ceremony and to make the marriage legal in the eyes of the state. Without a marriage license, the Priest cannot perform the marriage. **It must be brought to the Rehearsal.**

Arrangements for the marriage license should be made with the County Clerk before the date of the ceremony. **In the State of Texas, a marriage license must be procured no less than 72 hours (three days) and no longer than 30 days before the date of the wedding.** The marriage license **must** be given to the Wedding Coordinator at the time of the Rehearsal. She will give it to the Officiating Priest who will, in turn, complete and return it to the Office of the County Clerk. The County Clerk will return the original license to the married couple.

Clergy

The Rector and assisting clergy of St. Luke's are responsible for all weddings at the church. The spouses-to-be may ask any priest on the staff to officiate at their wedding and every effort will be made to accommodate their request. For those who have no preference, the Rector will designate an Officiating Priest.

As in all worship services of the church, the priest is charged with the final responsibility for determining the appropriateness of all arrangements and details and all plans for the wedding ceremony must be made in consultation with the Rector or the Officiating Priest.

An Acolyte may serve as Crucifer and assist at the Eucharist, if any. The Acolyte will be chosen by the Wedding Coordinator unless the family has one they would like to use.

Liturgy and Holy Eucharist

The Episcopal Church is a liturgical church and offers a beautiful service for Christian marriage in The BCP. All weddings performed at St. Luke's are in accordance with the Marriage Rite: The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage which can be found on pages 422-438. There is some flexibility and choice available within the service; however, no other changes are allowed. Marriage vows may not be re-written or edited, and practices, such as unity candles, that are not found in The BCP, are not permitted.

A list of suggested scripture readings is included in The BCP.

Because the Marriage Rite is a service of worship involving the whole congregation, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged and is a meaningful way for Christians to mark the beginning of their married lives. The word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving," and by setting the wedding in the context of the Eucharist there is a focus on giving thanks to God for the gift of love and for this marriage. The decision of whether or not to celebrate Eucharist at the wedding is a decision that should be made by the couple with the advice of the Officiating Priest. If you do plan to have Holy Eucharist as part of the ceremony, it must be made available to all present who are baptized and desire to receive. The Episcopal Church has open Communion and does not limit the administration of the sacrament to only the spouses-to-be or to the wedding party.

Music

Music for your ceremony is planned in consultation with the Director of Music & Organist of St. Luke's to ensure that music is appropriately fitting for you as a couple. Please contact the Ministry Support Associate to schedule an appointment with the Director of Music once your date is set on the Church calendar.

In accordance with The BCP, your wedding is a sacramental Rite of the church. The music selected for this most sacred occasion plays an integral part in this Episcopal Service known as The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. As with any service of worship, the liturgical guidelines for music are subject to the same standards as music for any other worship service at St. Luke's. If a particular piece would be appropriate at a Sunday morning worship service, it would be acceptable at a wedding; the reverse also holds true.

Prelude

Music preceding the service by organ or instruments set the festive tone of the liturgy which follows. This music is usually selected by the Director of Music & Organist. The spouses-to-be may ask about appropriate music.

Entrance Procession & Retiring Procession

Music designated as a wedding procession, whether entering or leaving the church, does not need to be in march tempo. Music for processions should have a sense of dignity and joy for the participants, bride, attendants, groomsmen and Officiating Priest. The procession may be an organ or instrumental piece, or a hymn (sung or played). The music selected for the Entrance Procession may be as quiet or as majestic as you wish, taking into account the size of the celebration, and whether it's simple or elaborate. The Retiring Procession is not a march but a festive statement concluding the service. The music to be selected should be unique and befitting this solemn service.

Music in the Service

Depending on the couple, the actual liturgy may have very little music or a lot. Music can enhance the joyous theme, and there are many ways to include it, such as a soloist, choir or congregational hymn. Appropriate places in the liturgy are: following the Declaration of Consent, between the lessons, following the marriage vows, and (if there is Holy Eucharist) at the preparation of the table and during communion.

Hymns

Appropriate hymns can be found in The Hymnal 1982. The following suggested hymns mark the joy and celebration of this service: 350-353, 376, 397, 390, 410, 467, 482, 487, 488, 516, 517, 518, 522, 523, 576, 577, 606, 657, 645, 646, 664.

Soloists

You may enhance your service with singer(s) or instrumentalists. Professional musicians are scheduled by the Director of Music. We have a large building which requires the skills of professionally-trained musicians; our staff singers are fine soloists and are available for hire at St. Luke's. In accordance with The BCP, sacred songs *only* are suitable since the music is being offered to the glory of God. Secular love songs, music from movies and operas may be more suitable at the wedding reception, rather than the service.

Your time with the Director of Music & Organist will be well served in making all of your decisions regarding the music.

All musicians and music must be approved by the St. Luke's Director of Music & Organist.

About the Church, Flowers, and Other Decorations

The Church seats 460 people.

The ornaments and appointments of the Sanctuary and Chancel – including seasonal hangings and ornaments such as the Advent wreath, Christmas Crèche, Christmas greens and decorations, the Baptismal Font, and the Paschal Candle – are part of the permanent liturgical furnishings of the Church; please do not disturb or remove them.

Simple common sense forbids any decorative activity that would damage the building and furnishings, such as driving tacks in the pews, using adhesive tape, and/or using materials that would leave stains on the pews and/or floors, etc.

Only live flowers and greenery may be used. It is important that your florist understands the appearance, dimensions and lighting of the sanctuary so that the flower arrangements will be adequate and appropriate for the space.

The florist should be engaged as soon as possible and informed of the church's decorating policies. The Wedding Coordinator can suggest an appropriate florist and will work with you and your florist. **Please have your florist contact the Wedding Coordinator at least thirty (30) days prior to the wedding in order to go over specific requirements regarding the vessels, size, type, and delivery of flowers (set-up/delivery must be scheduled).** All floral decorations **must** be in place a minimum of two (2) hours before the wedding. The florist is responsible for dismantling any floral decorations immediately after the ceremony.

Some of the rules regarding flowers/decorations in the church include:

- Aisle runners are **not** permitted.
- Flower girls may carry flowers but may **not** throw petals.
- **No** scattering of rice, birdseed, flower petals, confetti, bubbles or similar items – inside or outside the church or on the church steps/grounds.
- **No** flowers are allowed on the Pulpit, Lectern, or Altar.
 - Chancel step railings may be decorated.
- Standards are available and may be decorated with flowers or greenery; pew decorations are permitted, **but may not be taped or tacked to the wooden pews**; side-aisle pillars have hooks for hanging baskets.
 - These decorations **must** be removed no later than one-half hour (30 minutes) following the ceremony.
- Arrangements may be placed on the two credenzas in the Narthex and may be removed after the ceremony.
- The florist or an appointed person will be responsible for distributing bouquets and pinning corsages and boutonnieres.
- Traditionally, Altar flowers will remain at the Church after the ceremony since they are considered to be a “Gift of God” in honor of the marriage. Floral gifts are acknowledged in the upcoming Sunday's worship bulletin. NOTE: this is not offered during the Advent and Lenten seasons in the church.
- If the bride and groom choose to remove the Altar flowers after the service, **a 72-hour minimum notice must be provided in order for the Church to have adequate time to order flowers for Sunday services.**

Printed Program

The Rector or Officiating Priest **must** proofread the draft of any program before authorizing duplication. **St. Luke's does not provide printing services.**

Photography

Our rules concerning photographers and videographers are solely intended to maintain the dignity, beauty, order, and reverence of the marriage service. The detailed expectations of photographers and videographers set out below allow all participants to make your wedding the worship service it is meant to be. We ask the spouses-to-be to present these guidelines to their photographer and videographer, emphasizing their expectation that the guidelines will be reviewed and followed. Photographers are reminded that they are guests of the parish and are working in the House of God. Photographers should abide by the rules of the church.

Photographers will not go inside the altar rail and are to conduct themselves in a quiet and reverent manner.

Before the wedding

- If photographs are taken beforehand, everyone needs to arrive at the church and be dressed 1½ hours before the services.
- Photographs of the groom, his party, and family members can be taken 1½ - 2 hours ahead of the ceremony in the parlor, in front of the church, and inside the church.
- Photographs of the bride can be taken 1 - 1½ hours prior to the wedding in the Bride's Room, outside, or inside the church.
 - **No** inappropriate photographs of the bride or bridesmaids may be taken; **they must be fully dressed.**
- Photographers are welcome to take photos of the wedding party before the service; however, **Ushers must be free to welcome and seat guests 30 minutes before the service begins.**
 - The rest of the wedding party should be finished with photography no later than 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony.
- Photographs may be taken in the Narthex prior to the ceremony.
- **No photographs may be taken inside the church within 20 minutes of the ceremony beginning.**

During the wedding

- **Photographers are not permitted in the church Nave or Chancel during the wedding service.**
- Time exposure (non-flash) silent photos from the choir loft are permitted during the service and the photographer must follow any directives given by the Organist.
- Guests are asked **not** to take photos during the wedding ceremony.

After the wedding

- Photos of the newly married couple as they leave the Nave are permissible from the last pew or the Narthex.
- As a courtesy, pictures that include the Priest should be taken **first** so that they may leave.
- A limited number of flash photographs (not to exceed those that can be taken within a twenty (20) minute time period) may be taken of the wedding party following the wedding celebration inside the church after the last guests have left the room.
 - Please remember, the candles are part of the liturgy and as such will be extinguished at the conclusion of the ceremony and will **not** remain lighted during the photography period.

The Wedding Day

- All participants must be at the church at least one hour **before** the service.
- Guest books may be set-up in the Narthex; however, **must** be removed by a member of the house party **15 minutes before the wedding ceremony begins**.
- If dresses are to be delivered to the Bride's Room in advance, **they must be delivered at the time of the rehearsal, and they will be secured in the Bride's Room**. Otherwise, the bride and wedding party may bring them on the day of the wedding.
- The bridal party should arrive with hair and makeup done.
- It is best for the gentlemen to arrive in full dress for the wedding. This eliminates the possibility of the men arriving without all of their items of clothing.
- Make arrangements to provide light food for the separate spouse's-to-be rooms. The church will provide cups, napkins and water.
- Outside wedding consultants, dressers, and other related professionals are welcome to assist in dressing.
 - *Please remember that outside wedding consultants function at St. Luke's as Parish guests under the direction of the Wedding Coordinator.*
- **Designate someone to clear personal articles from the dressing areas 30 minutes before the wedding.**
 - Personalized shopping bags are a good way to deal with the personal belongings of each attendant or other wedding party member.
 - Do **not** leave purses, jewelry, cameras, or valuables unattended in the dressing areas.
- **ST. LUKE'S DOES NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.**
- **Smoking/Vaping is PROHIBITED** in all of the buildings on the St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School campus.
- It is St. Luke's policy that **NO** alcoholic beverages of any kind may be served or consumed in the bride's room, dressing areas, or anywhere on church or school premises **PRIOR** to or **DURING** the marriage service.

Liability

ANY DAMAGE CAUSED BY DECORATORS, FLORISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS OR OTHERS MUST BE REPAIRED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN OF ST. LUKE'S.

Wedding Fees, Music Additions, and Reception Information

Wedding Fees

Active Members of St. Luke's or Members of their family = \$1,150

At least one of the couple being married or their immediate family (parents/grandparents) have been a member for at least one year prior to the wedding, are involved in parish activities, and have made a financial pledge (see "Membership" Section on page 4).

The Wedding Fee noted above includes:

- Director of Music & Organist fee
- Wedding Coordinator fee
- One Acolyte (if requested, see page 6)
- Sexton(s)
- Donation for the use of the Church for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony to help offset the facilities and supplies expenses

Clergy

- There is no fee for the Clergy.
- You may choose on your own to give an Honorarium to the Officiating Priest.
- Alternatively, a check may be made payable to St. Luke's Episcopal Church with "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line. \$350 *suggested*.

Late start donations

- \$100 charge for a late start to the Wedding Rehearsal time previously agreed upon by the couple and the Officiating Priest.
- \$250 charge for a late start to the Wedding Ceremony time previously agreed upon by the couple and the Officiating Priest.

Music Additions (not included in the Wedding Fee listed above); due with Final payment

- Should additional music besides the organ be desired, the **Director of Music** can discuss with you, as well as additional fees for musicians and soloists.
 - Any additional rehearsal time requested of the Organist and/or musicians and soloists falls under the discretion of the **Director of Music**, and the fees will be appropriately discussed.
 - Any additional musical fees or other items outside of the fee noted above are due with the Final payment.

A Non-Refundable Deposit of 25% the Wedding Fee is required within 30 days of reserving the wedding on the church calendar.

The Final Balance is due 14 days prior to the wedding – this will include any additional items or options outside the Wedding Fee as noted above.

No member of St. Luke's will be denied a wedding celebration due to inability to pay.

Non-Members of St. Luke's:

\$3,000; and, must meet with the Rector for approval prior to setting a date on the church calendar. All deposits and final payments are due as noted on page 13.

Reception Facilities & Donations and Catering Policies

The Parish Hall or Parlors can be reserved for receptions and should be reserved at the same time as the wedding. The suggested donations for the reception spaces are listed below and are separate from the Wedding Fee (previously mentioned on page 11). The Parish Hall/Parlors are available six (6) hours prior to the service for set-up, and available for two and a half (2 ½) hours following the ceremony – no later than 10:30pm on Saturday evenings. This time is necessary for us to prepare the building for Sunday programs.

Outside caterers must provide certification and proof of insurance to the Wedding Coordinator at least two (2) weeks prior to the reception. Caterers may have use of the kitchen; however, they are responsible for full clean up and leaving the facility in ready-to-use condition. The church will provide table and chairs – ALL table linens/silverware/glassware, etc., **MUST** be supplied by the Cater. **St. Luke's is not responsible for any items left in the reception area, including food and beverage, which will be disposed.**

Alcohol and Beverage Policy

Champagne, beer or wine may be served at the reception at St. Luke's with certain restrictions:

- All Federal, state, and local laws and ordinances must be observed at all times, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
- Two responsible persons of legal age are required to serve.
- Whenever serving alcohol, a non-alcoholic alternative must be offered. Non-alcoholic beverages must be served with the same accessibility and attractiveness as those containing alcohol.

Parish Hall Reception Donation

- \$750 – Use of the facilities, Maximum Occupancy = 200 guests
- Sexton(s) Needed
 - Up to 50 guests = \$200 for one (1) Sexton
 - 50-100 guests = \$400 for two (2) Sextons (\$200 each)
 - 100-150 guests = \$600 for three (3) Sextons (\$200 each)
 - 150-200 guests = \$800 for four (4) Sextons (\$200 each)
- Utility and Cleaning = \$50/hour
- Wedding Coordinator = \$200

Parlor Area Reception Donation

- \$300 – Use of the facilities, Maximum Occupancy = 50 guests
- Sexton Needed
 - Up to 50 guests = \$200 for one (1) Sexton
- Utility and Cleaning = \$50/hour
- Wedding Coordinator = \$200

South Lawn Reception (NOT available during summer months, May-September)

- \$1,500 – Use of the grounds/garden facilities, Maximum Occupancy = 150 guests
- Use of the Parish Hall kitchen facilities and services to be determined at time of request
- Sexton, Wedding Coordinator, and Cleaning Fees will apply

A security deposit of \$500 is required in advance for any Receptions at St. Luke's which will be refunded after a satisfactory review of the property has been completed.

Payment(s) Due

Please make check(s) payable to **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**.

The Non-Refundable Deposit (25%) is due within 30 days of reserving the Church on the church calendar.

The Final Balance is due 14 days prior to the wedding - this will include any additional items outside the standard Wedding Fee (listed on Page 11).

Any last minute or outstanding fees must be Paid in Full no later than the Rehearsal Date.

WEDDING DATE: _____ TIME: _____

WEDDING DEPOSIT AMOUNT: _____ Check # _____ Date Paid _____

FINAL WEDDING BALANCE: _____ Check # _____ Date Paid _____

RECEPTION TOTAL BALANCE: _____ Check # _____ Date Paid _____

SECURITY DEPOSIT, \$500 (Reception, if applicable), Check # _____ Date Paid _____

Wedding Customary Receipt, Disclaimer, and Statement of Concurrence

We have read and understand the guidelines as presented in this Wedding Customary for St. Luke's Episcopal Church and agree to adhere strictly to its regulations as we prepare to celebrate our wedding.

It is our responsibility to communicate these guidelines to our florist, photographer, and caterer - and, to any other person(s) helping us prepare for our wedding at St. Luke's.

Smoking/Vaping is PROHIBITED in all of the buildings on the St. Luke's Church and School campus.

At NO TIME may alcohol be consumed on St. Luke's Church and School property BEFORE or DURING the wedding ceremony by the wedding party or their guests.

ST. LUKE'S DOES NOT ASSUME AND DOES HEREBY DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS.

ANY DAMAGE CAUSED BY DECORATORS, FLORISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, OR OTHERS MUST BE REPAIRED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN OF ST. LUKE'S.

Spouse-to-be (NAME)

Spouse-to-be (NAME)

The Rev. Irving Cutter, Rector

Wedding Coordinator (NAME)

Must be signed by both spouses-to-be and returned at the time of deposit due within 30 days of reserving the wedding on the church calendar.

Declaration of Intention

Following the Canons of the Episcopal Church, Canon I.18.4

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

We,

and

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

We understand the teaching of the church that God's purpose for our marriage is for our mutual joy, for the help and comfort we will give to each other in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the gift and heritage of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of God. We also understand that our marriage is to be unconditional, mutual, exclusive, faithful, and lifelong; and we engage to make the utmost effort to accept these gifts and fulfill these duties with the help of God and the support of our community.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Signature: _____ Name: _____

This the _____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Witnessed: _____ Officiating Priest: _____
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 11 St. Luke's Lane, San Antonio, TX 78209

****** Note: this is signed the night of the wedding rehearsal at the same time as the marriage certificate and wedding registry book.***

A Final Word

We hope that you find this Wedding Customary helpful, as you anticipate and plan for this joyous occasion in your life.

We want you to know that we view your wedding day, in this community of faith, with the joy and care it deserves. We are so pleased that you are with us here at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and want to extend our most sincere congratulations!

This is an exciting time in the life of all couples, and we want to walk faithfully with you through the wedding and beyond. You will remain in our prayers as we look forward to blessing your wedding day, but also far more importantly, your life together in the Holy Spirit.

We pray for God's peace and blessing on your life together.

Contact Persons at St. Luke's Episcopal Church
11 St. Luke's Lane, San Antonio, TX 78209
210-828-6425

Rector: The Rev. Irving Cutter
rector@slerca.org

Ministry Support Associate, Church Wedding Coordinator: Sara Spreen
saras@slerca.org

Director of Music & Organist: Russell Jackson
russellj@slerca.org

Parish Administrator: Angie Hudgins
angieh@slerca.org