

Wedding Application

Party A _____

Residence _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Occupation _____

Single ___ Widowed ___ Divorced ___ Number of this Marriage _____

Baptized _____ Denomination _____

Confirmed _____ Denomination _____

Are you a member of a church at this time? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, Please provide Name of Church, Denomination, and Address:

Communicant _____ Church _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Party B _____

Residence _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Occupation _____

Single ___ Widowed ___ Divorced ___ Number of this Marriage _____

Baptized _____ Denomination _____

Confirmed _____ Denomination _____

Are you a member of a church at this time? Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, Please provide Name of Church, Denomination, and Address:

Communicant _____ Church _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Please complete and return to: Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, New York 10960

Celebrating Your Wedding at Grace Episcopal Church

Congratulations!

We join with others in expressing our joy at your decision to marry and to celebrate this Sacrament in the Church. A relationship based on honesty, respect, and mutual admiration is a means of spiritual growth and happiness. We are honored to become part of the journey you have already begun and to join with those in your families and communities who look forward to celebrating your union.

This booklet contains items for you to consider as you make your preparations. In order for the planning to be as joyous as possible and free of misunderstandings, we urge you to read this brochure before you call the church office. Be sure also to make the necessary appointments as soon as possible.

A Community of Faith

In the Episcopal Church, one of the two planning to be married must be a baptized Christian (although not necessarily an Episcopalian), and the ceremony must be attested by two adult witnesses. No one is required to become either a Christian or an Episcopalian, but the wedding ceremony is Christian by nature and is derived from the Book of Common Prayer. The Church is clear about the latitude of changes permitted in the liturgy. Parish clergy will officiate. Visiting Episcopal clergy may celebrate at the discretion of the rector, provided a letter of request is received 30 days prior to the ceremony.

It is the understanding of the Episcopal Church and this parish that marriage is a lifelong commitment in which two people grow in love, spirituality, justice, and compassion through the support and nurture of each other and their family. A couple is part of a community of faith, and in electing to consider Grace Church you are indicating your willingness to be supported by this congregation, now and in the future.

The Church assumes that you are planning your wedding here as part of your participation or interest in the life of this congregation. It is our expectation that you will attend service with regularity and, when you feel comfortable doing so, and will express your intentions to participate in the wider life of the parish.

Setting the Date

After reading this brochure and discussing it with your partner, you should call the parish secretary and make an appointment to see one of the clergy. We do not negotiate a wedding date until after that meeting. Only upon receipt of the fees (see page 4), and after meeting with the clergy, is the church committed to the date and time agreed upon.

Grace Church does not celebrate church weddings during the season of Lent as this is the contemplative season of the Church year.

Premarital Counseling

The next step is a series of at least three appointments with the rector or a member of the clergy staff. These premarital counseling sessions are designed to help explain the liturgy, review with you your relationship and the expectations you bring to it, and to plan the ceremony. It is wise to make these appointments well before you secure reception halls or make other plans since the clergy cannot perform wedding ceremonies without certifying that these sessions have taken place. If you have been married previously, you will be asked to bring a copy of your divorce decree and you will need to allow for an additional thirty days following the conclusion of the counseling sessions for the Bishop to review and approve your plans.

Music

Music is an integral part of the liturgical life of Grace Church. As soon as the date of your wedding has been arranged, you should contact the Organist/Choirmaster and arrange for a time to review the music. Please be aware that because of the liturgy and the setting, popular music is not appropriate and is better left to the reception. Grace Church takes great pride in its musical heritage and the distinctive quality of music, and we encourage you to take

time to plan this aspect of the liturgy. Upon request, the Organist/Choirmaster can engage additional soloists or instrumentalists.

Seating

Grace Church seats about 325 people with about 50 more seats possible with folding chairs. The aisle is approximately 75 feet long. We do not use aisle runners as they have proved hazardous. Bradley Chapel accommodates 30 people.

Flowers

Flowers should be selected through your Florist. The Florist should arrange the details of their decoration, including time of delivery, set-up and take-down, with the Altar Guild of Grace Church. Flowers selected are customarily left at the church to be taken to the sick or shut-in. If your arrangements are too large or cumbersome to make this possible, or you choose to make other arrangements, please speak to the clergy. Grace Church does not permit artificial flowers, aisle runners, or any arrangements which may prove hazardous to any guests or participants in the service.

Leaving the Church

Rice, paper flower petals, live birds or butterflies, may not be thrown or released after the ceremony. Birdseed, bubbles or real flower petals are permitted.

Leaving the Church

Photography in the context of the liturgy demands a sensitivity that most professional photographer understand. We do not permit flash or “light bars” during the liturgy. Photographers may shoot from the transepts or from behind the congregation using the available light.

Because we have had a difficult time with some photographers, we maintain a list of those who are not welcome to photograph at the church. **We also require that you have your photographer sign and return the formal agreement at the end of this booklet.**

Still video recording is permitted with the signed agreement with the photographer and church. Roving camera persons disrupt the liturgy,. Those who plan to videotape the ceremony should set up in the center aisle or in the organ loft.

Receptions

The parish hall is available for receptions and must be reserved as early as possible. If there will be a professional caterer, the church will need a surety check of \$500 to insure that the space is left in the same condition in which it was found. The caterer should contact the parish administrator so that this arrangement can be made. Smaller rooms such as Patterson Hall are also available. Ask the parish administrator for a fee schedule

Fees

All fees are due after the first appointment with the clergy. Only then is the date and time reserved. The clergy will not be present for any ceremonial activity and the office will not process legal documents until all fees have been paid.

Please note: Gifts to the memorial fund of Grace Church are welcome and gratefully received for the mission and ministry of the parish. Clergy should not be presented with honoraria. All transactions should be made by check, payable to Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack.

Schedule of Fees

Required for all Weddings:

Church Fee:	\$2,000 (for non-members)
Altar Guild:	\$200
Sexton:	\$150

Optional:

Organist:	\$400 (includes rehearsal)
Personalized Order of Service:	\$150
Additional Clergy	\$200

Please note: Fees for soloists, choir or instrumentalists are to be arranged with the Organist/Choirmaster.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

Phone: (845) 358-1297
Fax: (845) 358-1443
E-Mail: parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org
Website: www.gracechurchnyack.org

A map is provided at the end of this booklet to be photocopied for the convenience of your guests.

Photographer Information and Agreement

Dear Photographer:

We understand that you are taking pictures for the _____ wedding. We look forward to working with you and want you to be aware of our policies. Please sign one copy of this agreement and return it to the couple; please keep the second copy for your records. To avoid the distractions that take away from the ceremony, we ask you to adhere to the following guideline.

- No flash photographs may be taken once the service begins.
- Flash may be used for the procession, provided that the equipment and the photographer remain behind the congregation at the west end of the church or chapel.
- In the main church, available light (no flash) photography, with quiet shutter, is permitted during the service provided that the photographer use the north or south transepts or remain behind the congregation in the west end of the nave.
- In the chapel, available light (no flash) photography, with quiet shutter, is permitted provided that the photographer remains behind the congregation at the west end of the chapel.

Arrangements may be made to photograph the wedding participants before or after the service. The couple must schedule this time with their officiating priest. Once the schedule is set, it must be adhered to. Our spaces are very tightly booked; you will be asked to vacate the space(s) if the photography runs late and other users are waiting.

When pictures are taken prior to the service, all shooting must be completed and equipment removed at least 45 minutes before the service. If pictures are to be taken after the ceremony, all must be completed within 45 minutes following the end of the liturgy.

I/We agree to the above guidelines, and respect that the officiating clergy person has the final say regarding any changes or additions to these policies.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Directions to Grace Church

Nyack is located on the west bank of the Hudson River at the Tappan Zee Bridge, 18 miles north of the George Washington Bridge.

From Westchester and the Tappan Zee Bridge:

Take Exit 11 onto High Avenue; straight ahead to Broadway; left onto Broadway and left again onto First Avenue.

From New York City and New Jersey:

Take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to Exit 4; north on 9W; right onto High Avenue, and continue as above.

Points West:

Take Route 59 which becomes Main Street in Nyack to Broadway, and as above.

In Nyack:

Grace Church is 3 blocks north of Main Street, at the corner of First Avenue and Franklin.