

Dear Photographer:

We are delighted that you have been asked to photograph a wedding at St. Mark's. We believe our church provides a visually and liturgically attractive setting for a marriage ceremony, and we are happy for you to assist by recording the event.

The great majority of photographers with whom we have dealt have been capable, dedicated professionals, who went about their work quietly and efficiently with a sense of perspective about their role. This letter is merely to clarify the photographer's role at a St. Mark's wedding in order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.

In the Episcopal Church, a wedding is a sacrament of the Church, and is a ceremony of great solemnity and drama. The integrity of this sacrament is our highest priority, and it must be respected. For this reason, we do not allow photographs during the service. One or two photographs are permitted from the narthex area only. Our Wedding Director is a member of our altar guild will be there to assist.

A photo may be made of the bride and her father in the narthex, just prior to their entrance into the church, as well as one of the bride and groom as they leave the main aisle. Group photographs of the wedding party and families may be taken and the various portions of the ceremony reconstructed, immediately after the service, when the congregation has left the building. If videotaping is done, the camera must use existing light only and be placed in the transept where it will not be seen by the congregation at large.

Please do not ask the Wedding Director or any other church official to make exceptions for you or for special permissions.

Please feel free to call the church office if you wish to discuss any matter or have questions.

In Christ

Danny Schieffler,  
Rector