

Financial Considerations for your Wedding

Traditions are constantly changing, so while determining the financial aspects of your wedding it is important for you and your fiancé and your respective families to keep an open, realistic, and courteous line of communication. The following list outlines traditional expense guidelines only. If the bride's family is unable to bear the usual costs of the wedding expenses, talk with the groom's parents. They may be willing to assist, and you and your fiancé might also want or need to assume some of the financial obligations of a wedding (you may even want to set up a joint bank account to help accomplish this).

This list should also serve as a guideline for expenses you may incur in your wedding planning.

Bride

- Wedding gift for groom
- Wedding band for groom
- Gifts for attendants, flower girl, and personal attendant
- Lodging for out-of-town attendants (optional)
- Bridesmaids' luncheon

Bride's Family

- **Pre-wedding expenses**
 - Mail/newspaper engagement announcements and photographs
 - Bride's wedding attire
 - Invitations and postage
- **General expenses**
 - Own traveling/lodging expenses, including those for bride if wedding not in hometown
 - Photographer
 - Videographer
 - Transportation for bride to church
 - Transportation for bride and groom or entire bridal party to reception
 - Wedding gift for newlyweds
 - Rental/purchase of own attire
- **Ceremony expenses**
 - \$1,800 donation to St. Mark's covers facility use, services of the priest, organist, event host and sexton
 - Purchase and printing of programs
 - Flowers
 - Bridesmaids' bouquets
 - Mothers' and Grandmothers' corsages
 - Fathers' and Grandfathers' boutonnieres
 - Corsage for soloist, readers, guest book attendant, bride's personal attendant
 - Flower girl basket and flower petals
 - Large altar/chuppah flower arrangements
 - Pew bows/flowers
- **Reception expenses**
 - Rental of reception hall, linens, tables, chairs, glasses, silver, china,
 - Set-up/tear-down fees of tables, chairs, etc.
 - Flower arrangements (guest table centerpieces, cake/buffet table, head table centerpiece)
 - Decorations (balloons, etc.)
 - Cake(s)
 - Cake server and knife
 - Toasting glasses
 - Table centerpieces
 - Placecards for seating arrangement (optional)
 - Catering (food, drink, bartender fees, etc.)
 - Entertainment (band, DJ, soloists)
 - Disposable cameras
 - Birdseed/bubbles etc. to throw at couple upon leaving

Bride and Groom

- Gifts for soloist, readers, guest book attendant, reception host/hostesses
- Gifts to parents

Groom

- Wedding gift for bride
- Wedding ring for bride
- Marriage license and associated costs
- Immunizations required for honeymoon
- Gifts for groomsmen and ushers
- Lodging for out-of-town attendants (optional)
- Bride's bouquet
- Boutonnieres for groomsmen, ushers, and ring bearer
- Fee for clergy
- Transportation from reception to airport, hotel, or honeymoon destination
- Honeymoon (food, lodging, entertainment, transportation)

Groom's Family

- Groom's tux rental
- Rental/purchase of own attire
- Own traveling/lodging expenses, including those for groom
- Mail/newspaper engagement announcements
- Rehearsal dinner
 - Rehearsal dinner invitations and postage
 - Rental of location, linens etc.
 - Food, drink, bartender fees, tip, etc.
 - Entertainment (i.e. soloist, quartet, DJ)
 - Placecards for seating arrangement (optional)
 - Flower arrangements for tables