

*Weddings*  
*at*  
*Old Saint Thomas at Ivy Mills*



# **Friends of Old Saint Thomas**

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## **Weddings at Old Saint Thomas at Ivy Mills**

*The Friends of Old Saint Thomas (FOST) invite you to choose historic St. Thomas the Apostle Church at Ivy Mills for your wedding. Now also known as the Chapel, it was built in 1852 as the main parish church; it is well over 150 years old and has witnessed countless wedding ceremonies over the decades. The old building, with its stone walls, newly restored stained glass windows, and Carrara marble altars, allows us to connect with generations of the faithful who have worshiped here over the decades. As part of the on-going historical parish community, we have a responsibility to those who will follow us to take special care of it, so we have developed the following guidelines.*

*Please note, too, that several benefits are attached to weddings in the old church: 1. Wedding Coordinator; 2. 1860 Bell-ringing; 3. Pre-and Post-ceremony use of the 1874 Rectory; and 4. Facilities and Grounds preparation.*



### **General Information**

- Recently air conditioned, the 1852 church is comfortable throughout the year.
- The old church seats about 200 persons, perfect for smaller, more intimate ceremonies.
- During weddings, the balcony may be used by musicians and the photographer only.
- All other general guidelines outlined in the parish “Matrimony Handbook” apply.

### **Special Benefits**

- The FOST **Wedding Coordinator** aids with all aspects of the matrimonial Mass or service. You will be contacted once you have made arrangements for your wedding date with the parish office. If you have questions about the use of the 1852 church before you decide on which building to use, by all means call 610 358-4835 or write [fost@friendsfoldstthomas.org](mailto:fost@friendsfoldstthomas.org)
- At the conclusion of your ceremony, **the 1860 bell** rings out the joyous news of your wedding. This once traditional, but now unique “announcement” is still part of what has been the historical experience here at Ivy Mills.
- The **1874 Rectory is open** for your use before and immediately after the ceremony. It includes a large room and a smaller side room, with separate access doors from the front porch, and a rest room.
- FOST volunteers make special efforts to **clean the church and 1874 rectory, and to refresh the grounds** surrounding the historic district before your ceremony.

### **Invitations and Directions**

To avoid confusion with the new church building, please be sure to direct your guests specifically to the 1852 building. Use the words St. Thomas the Apostle at Ivy Mills Chapel, OR St. Thomas the Apostle at Ivy Mills 1852 Church. The Wedding Coordinator will provide you with wording for written directions. For GPS-users, please enter the intersection – Valleybrook Road and Ivy Mills Road. Using the 430 Valleybrook Road address directs drivers to the new church entryway.

### **Decorating**

- Pew decorations may be hung with soft, non-marring material.
- Using sill protectors provided upon request, flowers may be placed on window sills.
- Please refrain from placing any decorations on the walls or light fixtures. No tape or adhesive may be used. No fasteners of any kind may be used on doors, wood, or light fixtures, interior or exterior.
- On the exterior doors, simple green & white artificial wreaths are provided upon request.

### **After the Mass or Service, please be aware:**

- While bubbles are acceptable, guests are not permitted to throw rose petals, rice, confetti or any other substance, inside or outside the 1852 Church.
- Altar flowers may remain. All other flowers and decorations must be removed immediately after all activities, including post-ceremony photographs.
- Non-compliance requires forfeiture of the clean-up deposit.



**Best wishes and many blessings on your marriage!**