

St. Paul's Alcohol Use Policy

Approved by Vestry

As inheritors of the Anglican Tradition and teachings of the Church we traditionally affirm the importance of the Incarnation whereby all that is material is sanctified. We know Scripture teaches that all creation is created good (Genesis 1) and that God has given us gifts of drink like wine for the gladdening of the heart (Psalm 104:15), while also encouraging moderation in drinking (Ephesians 5:18). Christ used and served alcohol at his first miracle at Cana and when he instituted the Holy Eucharist. The Episcopal Church does not endorse prohibition of using beverages containing alcohol among adult members. Christ used and served alcohol at his first miracle at Cana and when he instituted the Holy Eucharist. If an adult member elects to use alcohol, moderate usage is expected.

We are also aware of modern understandings of addiction, dependency, and safety concerns surrounding the use of alcohol. With this in mind, the following Policy is adopted by the Vestry for whenever alcohol may be consumed at the Parish or at a Parish-sponsored event in compliance with the laws of the State of Florida, Monroe County and the City of Key West.

St. Paul's Parish Alcohol Policy Guidelines to Be Followed

1. The Church must provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery.
2. All applicable federal, state and local laws should be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
3. When alcohol is served, it must be monitored and those showing signs of intoxication must not be served. Whenever alcohol is served, the rector must appoint an adult to oversee its serving. That adult must not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities. If hard liquor is served, a certified server is required.
4. Serving alcoholic beverages at congregational events where minors are present is strongly discouraged. If minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.

5. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such. Food prepared with alcohol does not need to be labeled provided the alcohol is completely evaporated by the cooking process; however, it is recommended that even in this case the use of alcohol in cooking be noted on a label.
6. Whenever alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
7. The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event, e.g. "wine and cheese reception," "cocktail party," and "beer and wine tasting."
8. Ministries inside or outside of congregations will make certain that alcohol consumption is not the focus of the ministry and that drinking alcohol is not an exclusively normative activity.
9. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
10. The groups or organizations sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the clergy or the vestry. Such groups or organizations must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired.
11. Recognizing the effects of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the Church is being conducted.

Further Parish Guidelines to Be Followed

1. Any event with alcohol must have at least one “Responsible Party” who will ensure that Episcopal Church and Parish Policies are followed. The Responsible Party will refrain from drinking, assumes responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated, and is responsible for providing alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired.
2. The use of alcohol at any event is only permitted with the approval of both the Rector (or the Senior Warden) and Junior Warden.
3. An “Application to Serve Alcohol” (see attached) must be filled out 10 days prior to the event in which alcohol is being proposed to be served with such application being signed by both the Responsible Party of the event and, after approval, both the Rector (or Senior Warden) and Junior Warden. If an event will re-occur more than once in a given year, the application may be granted for the duration of a calendar year.
4. In general, the alcohol served is limited to wine or beer. If service of liquor is requested, and it is a function with 30 or more in attendance, in the application, the Responsible Party must arrange for professional bar service, license, and any necessary liability insurance.
5. If more than twenty (20) people are expected at an event, the alcohol must be monitored at all times and only distributed by a Designated Server who shall be responsible for checking the IDs of any who appear to be under thirty.
6. The Designated Server shall refuse service to anyone who appears inebriated. If there are less than twenty (20), the Responsible party assumes these responsibilities.
7. All alcohol must be consumed inside; no open containers of alcohol are allowed outside unless this is a function in one of the gardens at St. Paul’s.
8. All alcohol must be removed from building after the event’s end or put into a locked place. Any outside group or organization must likewise submit an “Application to Serve Alcohol.” Outside groups or organizations must also furnish proof of liability insurance.

**The Application to Serve Alcohol on the
Premises of St. Paul's Episcopal**

(This form must be filled out by the "Responsible Party" of any event that proposes to serve alcohol at an official function of the Parish or on the Parish premises. This form must be returned to the church office 10 days prior to the scheduled event.)

Responsible Party Name: _____
(This person will not drink.)

Event Name: _____

Date: _____ Estimated Attendance _____

Is this an application for:
a one-time event _____ or a recurring event in same year _____
(**Note:** Even if a recurring event, a new application must be approved each calendar year.)

How will alcohol be served?

Self-Serve _____
(This means the Responsible Party monitors and this is only allowed for 20 or fewer guests)

Designated Server(s) Name(s)

Professional Bartender _____
(please attach copy of contract or agreement)

What type of alcohol will you be serving? Wine _____ Beer _____ Liquor _____
(A person with a professional license and insurance must be used for functions with 30 or more in attendance where liquor is served.)

Please state briefly why you believe the service of alcoholic beverages would be an important part of this event.

I certify that I have read and understand the Parish Alcohol Policy and that I agree to be the Responsible Party for ensuring these guidelines are met. I understand that if these guidelines are not followed, the church liability insurance may not cover any problems that may arise.

Name (Print)

Name (Signed)

Date _____

Approved by Rector (or Sr. Warden) _____ Date _____

Approved by (Junior Warden) _____ Date _____