

Music in the Rite of Marriage

The Rite of Marriage takes place within the wedding liturgy, either within Mass or outside Mass. Music is a basic and essential element of Catholic worship; certain parts of the liturgy must be done with music. The same principles that apply to selecting music for other liturgical celebrations also govern the choice of music for a wedding liturgy.

There are three basic criteria. Music chosen for a wedding celebration:

1. Should enable the active participation of those assembled.
2. Must be good music.
3. Must fit the spirit and structure of the liturgical event.

In choosing music for the liturgy, the focus is always the prayer and action of the community assembled. Those present should not be passive observers. The most important moments for music in the wedding liturgy are all the times for congregational song; therefore, music that the assembly can sing is an important category of music to think about for your wedding. This doesn't mean that instrumental music has no place, but rather that its place is secondary. Appropriate use of instrumental music may be, for example, as a processional and/or recessional (although a strong hymn would find a place here, too). Music borrowed from the entertainment world does not suitably express the faith present at a Christian marriage. Some love songs may be fine music, and may have a place on your wedding day, but that place is not the wedding liturgy; consider the use of such music at the reception.

Included in this packet are an outline of the wedding liturgy and a list of music that would be suitable for a Catholic wedding liturgy. Many of the songs on the list can be found in our parish hymnal. The instrumental music is based on the repertoire of the parish music director. Many of the selections listed may not be familiar to you by title. There may be other music that would be acceptable; check with the music director.

MUSICIANS

The couple may choose to hire the parish music director to play the organ, piano and/or sing at your wedding liturgy. Guest musicians may also be used, including family and friends of the couple and non-parish musicians hired by the couple. In choosing musicians, the criteria mentioned above should be kept in mind. The person (or persons) engaged should have knowledge of and experience of Catholic liturgy, be capable and preferably experienced at leading the singing and accompanying the song leader. The joint effort of the parish musician and a guest musician is a possibility.

Amplification of the musicians must be limited to the use of the church sound system.

The parish instruments are available for use by competent musicians.

It is the responsibility of the parish music director to review and approve all music used at your wedding liturgy. *It is essential* that you consult with the parish music director *before selecting musicians or planning the music.*

The parish music director can be reached at the Parish Office, 248.477.7470.

Over, please.

Music List and Outline for the Wedding Liturgy

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC *(Appropriate for instrumental prelude, processional or recessional)*

ARIOSO - Bach
 CANON IN D – Pachelbel
 HORNPIPE - Handel
 JESU, JOY OF MAN’S DESIRING – Handel
 LOVE IS THE SUNLIGHT (Piano) – Cotter/Haas
 ODE TO JOY – Beethoven
 SOLEMN PROCESSIONAL - Handel
 SPRING I – Vivaldi
 TRUMPET TUNE – Purcell
 TRUMPET VOLUNTARY – Purcell

OTHER SONGS *(Appropriate for prelude, unity candle, preparation of gifts or communion)*

AVE MARIA – Bach or Schubert *(Not communion)*
 BRIDAL PRAYER
 BY MY SIDE
 * GOD, WHO CREATED HEARTS TO LOVE, #571
 HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN *(Not communion)*
 * HEAR US NOW OUR GOD AND FATHER, #747
 * HOW GREAT THOU ART, #628
 IN LOVE WE CHOOSE TO LIVE
 * JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE, #617
 * LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH, #739
 * LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS, #690
 * LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING, #746
 * LOVE IS THE SUNLIGHT, #565
 * PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, #738
 * ON EAGLES’ WINGS, #704
 * ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, #820 *(Communion)*
 * SING A NEW SONG, #607
 WE WILL SERVE THE LORD
 * WHEN LOVE IS FOUND, #568
 * WHERE LOVE IS FOUND, #572
 * WHERE THERE IS LOVE, #569
 WHEREVER YOU GO
 * Can be found in the parish hymnal.

PSALM RESPONSE *(After first reading)*

Ps 33 Let your mercy be on us
 Ps 34 Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
 Ps 34 The Lord hears the cry of the poor
 Ps 103 The Lord is kind and merciful - Reagan
 Ps 103 The Lord is kind and merciful- Prowse
 Ps 103 Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord
 Ps 114/115 We praise you, O Lord
 Ps 128 Blest are those who love You
 Ps 128 May the Lord bless us
 Ps 145 I will praise your name

WEDDING LITURGY OUTLINE

PRELUDE MUSIC	<i>(1-3 selections played or sung 10-15 minutes before liturgy, as guests arrive at church)</i>
PROCESSIONAL	<i>(Includes priest or deacon, attendants, bride and groom)</i>
Opening Prayer	
First Reading	<i>(From the Old Testament of the Bible)</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>(Text must come from Book of Psalms in Bible)</i>
Second Reading	<i>(From the New Testament of the Bible)</i>
*Gospel Acclamation	
Gospel Reading	<i>(From one of the four gospels of the Bible)</i>
Homily	
Exchange of vows and rings	
LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE	<i>(Optional)</i>
Prayer of faithful	
PREPARATION OF GIFTS ❖	<i>(As gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar)</i>
*Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen❖	
Our Father	
Nuptial Blessing	
*Lamb of God❖	
COMMUNION MUSIC ❖	<i>(During distribution of communion when Mass is celebrated)</i>
FLOWERS TO THE IMAGE OF MARY	<i>(Optional; Ave Maria is appropriate)</i>
Final Prayer and Blessing	
RECESSIONAL	<i>(Includes bride & groom, all attendants and immediate family)</i>

*Sung ritual music (the words are part of the marriage rite and are always sung)
 Items that are in CAPITAL LETTERS are those places music should be selected; other parts are spoken.

❖Omitted when the marriage rite is not celebrated in the context of Mass.