



Guidelines for Music  
During  
Wedding Liturgy  
At  
St. Mary Catholic Church

St. Mary Church  
648 S. Third St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43206

2011

Congratulations on your engagement!

This booklet was developed to give you ideas on how to individualize the prayers, readings, and music which will help you to prepare the liturgy for your wedding.

The Catholic Church keeps no official list of “approved” wedding music, but we hope to offer these guidelines that will help you choose music that is liturgically correct, expresses YOUR faith as couple and supports the text as an expression of Christian faith.

Music chosen for a wedding ceremony must encourage those in attendance into full, conscious and active participation in the wedding liturgy.

According to the statement by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Liturgy, *Music in Catholic Worship*, there are (3) judgments to consider when choosing music

1. **Musical judgment** Even if the music is contemporary, traditional, classical or instrumental, is the song musically sound? Can it assist the assembly to express and share the gift of faith that you have as a couple? Is the music beautiful, according to your culture and taste? To get an idea of what the music will sound like, listen to the list of sample songs on youtube, or other comparable music web site. The list starts on page 4 of this booklet. The voices and instruments of the gathered assembly should not be replaced by recorded music before, during, or after the liturgical celebration.
2. **Liturgical judgment** Is the text of the music consistent with the nature of the liturgy? Is the text of the music prayerful? Does it help the assembly to pray and to give thanks to God for your love? Couples are encouraged to choose

religious songs. Music usually sung at Sunday service is appropriate for a wedding liturgy. Popular songs or rock songs, Broadway, film music, top 40 songs, even if they have a spiritual theme, are usually not appropriate for liturgy

3. **Pastoral judgment** Does the music allow full, active and conscious participation of the assembly? We need you to be role models for the wedding party. Help wedding guests be participants, not spectators. Choose songs and acclamations that may be familiar to most of your guests, and will assist them to actively participate in sung prayer. Singing is one of the most powerful ways your family and friends can show their support and love for you and your spouse, “Sing once, pray twice”...

### **SELECTING YOUR MUSIC**

All music is to be approved by the St. Mary Wedding Music Coordinator. The popular “Here Comes the Bride” and “Wedding March” do not belong in beautiful Catholic wedding liturgy. Here are the reasons:

- a. The music originated from theatrical repertoire
- b. It portrays marriage in a way that differs from the Christian Church.
- c. The impression focuses on the bride alone.

If you are at all curious if a song may be appropriate ask yourself, “Will this song help us and the rest of those assembled to lift up our hearts in prayer?”

## WHEN SHALL WE SING?

Here is the list of songs that MAY BE used during the wedding liturgy. This by no means is a complete list. If you have questions about the appropriateness of any music you may suggest, please contact the Wedding Music Coordinator. Most of these songs can be listened to on several music web sites for FREE such as *youtube*. Because of the nature of the Wedding Celebration, and because of the joy of the occasion, it is recommended that the assembly, led by the cantor, join in singing:

*If you are planning a Wedding Ceremony,  
you will choose:*

- a. Gathering Hymn (optional)
- b. Responsorial Psalm
- c. Gospel Acclamation

*If you are planning a full Mass,*

*you will choose all of the choices above, plus*

- d. Preparation of gifts, sung or instrumental
- e. Holy Holy, Holy
- f. Memorial acclamation,
- g. Amen,
- h. Lamb of God
- i. Communion procession

**PRELUDE MUSIC** Special prelude music will be presented 20 – 30 min. before the wedding. You are welcome to give suggestions, especially if you have a religious song that is special to you. If you are not going to “make a visit” to the statue of the Virgin Mary, this is a very appropriate place to remember our Blessed Mother.

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Ave Maria                   | Gounod     |
| 2. Ave Maria                   | Schubert   |
| 3. Canon in D                  | Pachelbel. |
| 4. Hail Mary, Gentle Woman     | Landry     |
| 5. Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring | Bach       |

## SOLOS AND OTHER ASSEMBLY SONGS

The following are additional suggestions that may also be sung as prelude music

- |                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. A Nuptial Blessing                 | Joncas  |
| 2. Covenant Hymn                      | Cooney  |
| 3. God in the Planning                | Haas    |
| 4. God Is Love                        | Haas    |
| 5. May Love Be Ours, Lord             | Joncas  |
| 6. Prayer of St. Francis              | Temple  |
| 7. Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts | Warner  |
| 8. The Summons                        | Bell    |
| 9. The Wedding Song                   | Stokey  |
| 10. When Love is Found                | Haas    |
| 11. Where Love is Found               | Schutte |
| 12. Where There Is Love               | Haas    |

## PROCESSIONAL/RECESSIONAL MUSIC

It is preferable to have only one processional song which promotes unity with the bridal party. If you want more than one processional song, please consult the Wedding Music Coordinator.

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Air (from the Water Music)                       | Handel      |
| 2. Canon in D                                       | Pachelbel   |
| 3. Hornpipe (from Water Music)                      | Handel      |
| 4. LaRejouissance                                   | Handel      |
| 5. Ode to Joy                                       | Beethoven   |
| 6. Prelude from TeDeum                              | Charpentier |
| 7. Rondeau  | Mouret      |
| 8. Trumpet Tune                                     | Purcell     |
| 9. Trumpet Voluntary<br>aka Prince of Denmark March | Clarke      |

## GATHERING SONGS

Once the bridal party has completed the processional, couples may choose to sing a gathering song, to unite the assembly in prayer. While a gathering song isn't required, it acts as a unifying agent for the assembly.

1. All Are Welcome Haugen
2. All Creatures of our God and King
3. Gather Us In Haugen
4. Gather Your People Hurd
5. God, Who Created Hearts to Love
6. Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
7. How Great Thou Art Traditional
8. Joyful, Joyful We Adore You
9. Love Divine, All Love's Excelling
10. Now Thank We All Our God
11. Praise to the Lord
12. This Day Was Made by the Lord Walker

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** The psalmist sings the antiphon, and then the assembly responds by repeating the antiphon and then the psalmist sings the verses. It is important that the text be a psalm. You may find different song settings of a psalm, each one has words of the refrain are a little different, but the words of the psalm are similar. A solo or other sacred song cannot be used

1. Psalm 33 The Earth Is Full of the Goodness
2. Psalm 34 Taste and See
3. Psalm 103 The Lord is Kind and Merciful
4. Psalm 112 Blessed are they who hear and love God's command
5. Psalm 128 Blest Are Those who Love You
6. Psalm 145 Our God is Compassion
7. Psalm 148 Let All Praise the Name

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** The gospel acclamation should always be sung. Any of the Gospel acclamations sung on Sunday are appropriate.



## WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE IN OUR WEDDING PROGRAM?

We encourage you to create a fancy Wedding Program that you and your family will have for years to come as a keepsake of your special day. Here are some helpful hints to help you to keep your program “Liturgically Correct”.

- a. When listing those involved in your wedding, list the priest or deacon as “Presider”, not officiant.
- b. The singer who proclaims the psalm is known as the “Psalmist”. The singer who leads the people in song is a “Cantor”. This could be the same person. Neither should be listed as a soloist.
- c. Feel free to list by name all of the ministers of the liturgy. It is not necessary to mention by name the paid musicians, but you are encouraged to mention the instrumentalists and singers if they are personal friends and family.
- d. The Prelude music does not have to note the music and words of the song, but the proper listing is to state the song title and name of the composer.
- e. To enable the assembly to fully participate, the psalm refrain, and the Gospel Acclamation should be printed in your fancy program.
- f. For those having a full Mass, we will supply a supplemental music program that has the copyrighted words and music that will be used during your ceremony. This is not to be used instead of your fancy program, but is used in addition to your program so that your assembly may sing and be active participants in your ceremony.

## **WHAT INSTRUMENTS CAN BE USED AT OUR WEDDING?**

At St. Mary church, we have a large possibility of musicians and singers. We are able to offer Organ, Piano, Trumpets, Flute, Guitar, Handbells and others.

St. Mary Parish welcomes friends or family members who are trained as singers or cantors to participate in your wedding liturgy. The Cantors of St. Mary Parish are well trained and quite capable singers. They will encourage those assembled to be active participants in the singing.

### **To avoid any confusion, we ask that the fees are paid the Monday before the wedding.**

We encourage you to budget \$425 which MAY include the cost of Organ **or** Piano, additional instruments such as trumpet, flute, cello, and cantor are provided by the Parish. The cost of the Handbell Choir is an additional \$100. Each wedding is evaluated individually for musical instrumentation and cost.

A copyright approved music program will be supplied to supplement your fancy wedding program for those having a full Mass. We will provide the master copy, and you must have it reproduced at a local print shop. This is highly suggested for a Wedding Mass.. It is meant to help the congregation to be an active part of your celebration.

We require you to consider using the St. Mary musicians for your wedding. If after much discussion, you request that another, equally qualified musician is to play at your wedding, and you choose not to use the St. Mary organist or pianist, a “Bench Fee” of \$100 will be paid to the St. Mary music fund. This properly compensates the staff musicians.

*St. Leo church musicians follow these same guidelines, but will negotiate the cost of their services. If you have questions contact the St. Leo musician, Pandora Porcase [pporcase@setonparish.com](mailto:pporcase@setonparish.com)*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The preparation of the wedding liturgy is a beautiful and profound opportunity for Christian witness and prayer, as well as a delicate balance of human sensitivity.

It requires time, effort and cooperation.

Please contact the Wedding Music Coordinator, Amanda Walker, as soon as possible, so that the musicians that you want for your wedding can be scheduled.

**To avoid any confusion, we ask that the fees are paid the Monday before the wedding. Checks are to be addressed to *Amanda Walker*, and she will distribute the money to the musicians.**

Contact Deacon Minner with questions about your wedding liturgy [rjminner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjminner@sbcglobal.net)

Contact Amanda Walker with questions about your wedding liturgy music [awalker40@aol.com](mailto:awalker40@aol.com) or 614 325 1758. You can usually contact Amanda at the 11:30 Sunday Mass.