



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

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

2008

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 *I-tunes*, 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 *I-tunes*. 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.

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| 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 |

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

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.

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 Jason Shanks with questions about your wedding liturgy jasonshanks@stmarygv.com

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

Contact Tim Smith with questions about your wedding liturgy music for weddings held at St. Leo Church portagetim@yahoo.com or 614 252 2888.

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, Cello, guitar, Handbells and others.

St. Mary Parish insists that you use one of our parish Cantors. A Cantor sings the verses of the Responsorial Psalm, and the assembly sings the refrain. The Cantor is not a “soloist”, though he/she may sing a sacred song during the liturgy or as part of the prelude music. The Cantors of St. Mary are well trained and quite capable singers. They will encourage those assembled to be active participants.

Our parish musicians will arrange the instrumentation. In all cases the music minister of St. Mary will be responsible for implementing the wedding music and we require that you use the parish music ministers for all music planning related to your wedding.

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

\$400 will include the cost of Organ or Piano, additional instruments which may include, trumpet, flute, cello, and cantor provided by the Parish

\$450 will include the cost of both Organ and Piano and additional instruments which may include, trumpet, flute, cello, and cantor provided by the Parish

\$ 30 a music program. This is a copyright approved music supplement to your fancy wedding program. 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.

\$100 the cost of the Handbell Choir

SOLOS AND OTHER ASSEMBLY SONGS

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

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| 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 | Stookey |
| 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.

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| 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
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 cantor sings the refrain, and the assembly repeats the refrain and the cantor sings the verses. It is important that the text be a psalm; 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 128 Blest Are Those who Love You
5. Psalm 145 Our God is Compassion
6. 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.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS If you are having a full Mass, an instrumental song may be played or a short song expressing praise or thanksgiving may be sung. These songs may also be used during the prelude.

1. Blest Are They Hass
2. Here I Am, Lord Schutte
3. I Have Loved You Joncas
4. My Song Will be for You Forever Haas
5. On Eagle's Wings Joncas
6. Prayer of St Francis Sebastian Temple
7. Servant Song McGargill
8. Wherever You Go Haas
9. Wherever You Go Weston Priory
10. You are Mine Haas

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION If you are having a full Mass, we suggest the Mass of Creation, because most Catholics are familiar with this Mass setting.

Mass of Creation Haugen

COMMUNION SONG If you are having a full Mass,

1. Bread of Life Fisher
2. Bread for the World Farrell
3. Gift of Finest Wheat Kreutz
4. Now in this Banquet Haugen
5. One Bread, One Body Foley
6. Pan de Vida Hurd
7. Panis Angelicus Franck
8. The Supper of the Lord Rosania
9. This Bread That We Share MacAller