

# WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES

## SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### The Holy Sacrament of Marriage

As you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage it is important to remember that while marriage is very personal, your pledge to one another of an intimate and lasting union, the wedding ceremony is a communal liturgical celebration. Whether the rite takes place within or outside of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Church still gathers to celebrate, give thanks for, and bless your union, a symbol of the union of Christ and His Church.

### Wedding Music

The music you choose for the wedding ceremony must be consistent with the purpose of the ceremony. No matter how personally meaningful certain music may be to you as a couple, the guiding principle for acceptability of any wedding music is the basic relationship of the music to the ritual of marriage and to the sacred celebration of the Christian community gathered to witness it and to seek God's blessing on your union.

Sacred music as a part of the Catholic liturgy means firstly, singing the Liturgy itself. For this reason, it is essential that you have a cantor or choir to lead the congregation in singing the liturgy. (The parts of the liturgy which are sung can be seen in bold on the form on the reverse of this sheet.) There is, however, place within the liturgy to choose hymns, sacred songs, and instrumental music. The first step in choosing hymns and sacred songs is to choose your readings from the book, Together for Life. Once your musicians know your choice of readings they can better assist you in choosing additional hymns and sacred songs. In choosing instrumental music the traditional Wedding Marches of Wagner and Mendelssohn, are generally discouraged in Catholic weddings because of their association with theatrical music which makes light of marriage. For this same reason of association, secular instrumental music is also not appropriate in the Catholic liturgy. Your musicians will be able to assist you in finding sacred music in a variety of styles.

### Preparing the Music for Your Wedding

You should make initial contact with the wedding coordinator at least six months prior to your wedding to arrange for your musicians. We are blessed as a parish to have many talented musicians available to assist you at your wedding. (If you wish to use outside musicians, i.e. musicians not from the parish, or family or friends, this must be discussed and arranged through the Director of Music, Amy Zuberbueler [chironomy@aol.com](mailto:chironomy@aol.com) or 210-688-9033.)

In choosing musicians it is highly recommended to have a minimum of two musicians, a cantor and an instrumentalist. The stipend for a keyboardist (organ or piano) and cantor is \$200.00. If you want a vocalist who accompanies himself/herself with guitar the stipend is \$100.00. If you wish to add other musical instruments (violin, trumpet, flute, guitar) or vocalists, the stipend per musician is \$100.00. If you wish to have a choir, the stipend remains \$100.00 per musician. All stipends are due at the rehearsal and should be given to your wedding coordinator at this time. The musicians are not expected to be at your rehearsal, this is at their discretion.

Once your musicians are chosen you will meet with the music leader to complete the form on the reverse of this sheet. This form must be completed and returned to the Director of Music at least one month prior to your wedding. By request, a blank form can be sent to you digitally by e-mail. If you have any questions as you prepare the music and liturgy for your wedding please feel free to contact the Director of Music by phone or by e-mail.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to you both!

May God bless you and Our Lady guide you as you begin your new life together!

DATE OF CEREMONY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICIANT: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

GROOM \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### ORDER OF LITURGY

Prelude: *(instrumental or vocal music to begin approximately twenty minutes before the Liturgy)*

Mother's Entrance: *(a special hymn, sacred song or instrumental music may be chosen for the mothers)*

Procession of the Celebrant and Groom (Groomsmen)

Procession of the Bridesmaid's

Procession of the Bride

*The Procession of the Celebrant, Groom and Groomsmen, Bridesmaids, Flower girls, Ring bearers, and Bride can all take place while a hymn is sung, or instrumental music is played. One or more pieces may be chosen for the procession depending on the size of the wedding and special requests.*

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon:** *(prayer of the wedding liturgy, sung by the cantor)*

**Lord Have Mercy:** *(optional, does not have to be sung, New Roman Missal Chant Mass)*

**Glory to God:** *(sung or recited, New Roman Missal Chant Mass)*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

**Responsorial Psalm:** *(should be sung by the cantor, may be recited by the lector)*

Second Reading

**Alleluia/Verse Before the Gospel:** *(should be sung by the cantor)*

Gospel

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

Unity Candle (optional): *(short sacred song, hymn, or instrumental music may be used here)*

Presentation of Lasso, etc. (optional): *(short sacred song, hymn, or instrumental music may be used here)*

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*For a marriage outside of Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not a part of your wedding celebration.*

Offertory: *(sacred song, hymn, or instrumental music may be used here)*

Eucharistic Prayer

**Holy, Holy, Holy:** *(New Roman Missal Chant Mass)*

**Memorial Acclamation:** *(a cappella)*

**Amen:** *(a cappella)*

**The Lord's Prayer:** *(chanted in English)*

**Lamb of God:** *(New Roman Missal Chant Mass)*

At Communion Time:

**Communion Antiphon** *(prayer of the wedding liturgy, sung by the cantor)*

**Communion Hymn** *(at least one Communion Hymn should be chosen, two may be needed depending on the number of congregants receiving Holy Communion)*

### CONCLUDING RITES

Presentation of Flowers to BVM (optional): *(sacred song, hymn, or instrumental music may be used here)*

Recessional: *(sacred song, hymn, or instrumental music may be used here)*

Postlude: *(instrumental piece, optional, recommended to be used if a large number of congregants)*

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E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
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### ORDER OF LITURGY

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Mother's Entrance:

Procession of the Celebrant and Groom (Groomsmen)

Procession of the Bridesmaid's

Procession of the Bride

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon:**

**Lord Have Mercy:**

**Glory to God:**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Second Reading

**Alleluia/Verse Before the Gospel:**

Gospel

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

Unity Candle (optional):

Presentation of Lasso, etc. (optional):

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory:

Eucharistic Prayer

**Holy, Holy, Holy:**

**Memorial Acclamation:**

**Amen:**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Lamb of God:**

At Communion Time:

**Communion Antiphon**

**Communion Hymn**

### CONCLUDING RITES

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Recessional:

Postlude: