

Wedding MUSIC Guidelines

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish - Queensbury, NY

The diocese of Albany has guidelines for Music at a Catholic Wedding.

The music at the ceremony **should be appropriately in keeping with the joy and sacredness of Christian Marriage**. Our Organist would be happy to assist you.

In the document, Music in Catholic Worship, the primary concern is the **worship of God**. Therefore **the role of music** in the celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments is threefold:

- Music must fulfill a role of service
- Music must invite and involve congregational participation
- Music must be an integral part of the liturgy.

A wedding celebration that is ONLY instrumental music is NOT allowed. Our **Catholic Liturgy calls for active participation**. While classical music can be beautiful, the wedding celebration is not a concert, but an act of praise of our God.

Thus, the **congregation has the rightful role in singing**. This would include the Responsorial Psalm, the “Holy, Holy, Holy”, the Memorial Acclamation, and the Great Amen. These should always be sung. Instrumental music may be played at the entrance, the offertory, communion meditation, and recessional. Remember ...”He or she who sings, prays twice!”

While an instrumental piece is often used as the **entrance procession, only one song will be played** – the bride entrance is **not** accompanied by a separate song.

“Can you pray the words of the text?” is a good way to determine if the music is appropriate or not for a Catholic Wedding.

These are general comments about music in Catholic worship. Our organist can provide you with the diocesan policies regarding Wedding music. We would ask you to **meet with our organist and discuss the music selections** for your wedding.