

ST. MARY'S WEDDING MUSIC POLICY

The music at every Catholic wedding should *assist* the assembled congregation to express and share the gift of faith that is within them. It should give witness to the Catholic faith and also nourish and strengthen people's interior commitment of faith. It should heighten the Scripture readings you have chosen so that these readings speak more fully and effectively. Music draws the whole person into a spirit of celebration. It is an expression of the congregation's prayer and praise to God on this wonderful occasion. For this reason, *love songs that do not include God's love are inappropriate and better appreciated at the wedding reception which has its own special musical considerations.*

All music chosen for your wedding should reflect the religious and sacramental nature of marriage. **A music packet containing several CD's of appropriate sacred music can be picked up and borrowed from our music department.** This wedding music packet should be picked up ***at least 5 months prior*** to your wedding date in order to give ample time for you to listen to and choose from a variety of appropriate sacred vocal and instrumental songs. Please **contact** our parish music director-**Theresa Setter at 925-4159** or **e-mail her** at tsetter@stmarycatholic.org to begin your wedding music preparation.

It is encouraged that you consider inviting the entire congregation to express its joy and unity by singing together at appropriate times during your wedding.

1. **Responsorial Psalm**-(a refrain that is first sung by your cantor and then all repeat with the verses sung by your cantor)
2. **Gospel Acclamation**-(an Alleluia that is first sung by your cantor, all repeat with the verse sung by your cantor)
3. **Eucharistic Acclamations**-(Holy, Mystery of Faith, Amen and Lamb of God are sung by all)
4. **Communion Song**-(songs taken from the Breaking Bread or Spiral bound Hymnal in the church)

The above list shows perfect places to invite your congregation to sing. Liturgical music should express the gratitude and joy you feel toward God for bringing you together. As a couple, you stand before the world as a sign that God lives. Let the music of your wedding *reflect* this. Discuss the various options in the liturgy with each other and our parish music director. Pray over what scriptures you would like proclaimed and be open to new ways of doing things. With this in mind, preparing your wedding music can bring you closer and the result will be a day that is festive and memorable to all involved.

In the case of music ministers, it is recommended that you choose from a list of parish cantors, pianists and instrumentalists who help lead our assembly in song. Their information such as fees and contact numbers can be obtained by calling or emailing our parish music director. If there is someone whom you would like to have sing or play, please be sure that they have had previous experience with a Catholic Mass and or Ceremony and can do a good job to help lead your gathered assembly in prayer. Anyone whom you invite to help with your music needs to observe all aspects of this parish wedding music policy. All music chosen for your wedding must be approved by the parish director of music. Thank you!