

## **MUSIC POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS**

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota**

When you think of weddings, you automatically think of the bride and the groom and their love for one another. However, there is much more involved than just the two of you. Your family and friends are included as well. They helped bring you to this point and will continue to support and encourage you as you begin your new life together. Most importantly, you must include God, who is the source of your love and whose love for you is reflected in your love for one another. That is why your decision to get married calls for a special celebration in the faith community—that is, St. Joseph's Parish.

**Every part** of the wedding ceremony witnesses to all those present that you understand that you are entering a **sacred and holy union—a sacrament**. Therefore, everything about the ceremony, including the music calls for careful planning. A good selection of music will contribute to your understanding of the sacrament itself. If it does not, then it is unsuitable for your wedding celebration. It would be unworthy of the occasion. Everyone present at your wedding will be led by the dignity and beauty of the liturgy to a deeper understanding of Christian marriage, and consequently, to a greater commitment to marriage itself. In a sense, your wedding is your gift to your family and friends. It is your invitation to them to enter into your faith, your love and your prayer and share that life with you.

Because you have chosen to invite Christ to make your love a sacrament, the music you choose for your wedding must express this unique and distinct encounter.

Just as you would not expect to pronounce your wedding vows in street language, so you would not expect to hear “everyday” love songs within a ceremony celebrating sacramental married love. Certainly, “your song” will have a place later in the day's festivities; but during the wedding liturgy itself the emphasis should be on God's love for you, your love for God, the love of the community for you and your love for them. All of this supports and confirms your love for each other.

The lyrics (words) of songs chosen for the wedding liturgy should express the Christian concept of life, rather than one which is purely secular and mundane. The liturgy of marriage celebrates not only the human love between two people, but also their relationship with God—God who is love. The lyrics, therefore, must always be in conformity with Catholic doctrine. In other words, the text should be drawn chiefly from

scripture and other liturgical resources. Church documents clearly emphasize the type of music to be used.

Great care should be taken, especially at marriages, that all the people are involved at the important moments of the celebration, that the same principles of planning worship and judging music are employed as at other liturgies, and above all, that the liturgy is a prayer for all present, not a theatrical production. *Music in Catholic Worship [82]*

Particular decisions about choice and placement of wedding music should grow out of the three judgments proposed in *Music in Catholic Worship*. The liturgical judgment: Is the music's text, form, placement and style congruent with the nature of liturgy? The musical judgment: Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good irrespective of musical idiom or style? The pastoral judgment: Will it help this assembly to pray?  
*Liturgical Music Today [29]*

Perhaps the best criterion is simply the question, "Can you pray the words of the text?" Lyrics should express the ideals of fidelity, permanent commitment and faith in God. A song that has personal meaning only for the bride and groom and expresses an individual personal human love will not be appropriate if it fails to express a Christian view of this love and worship. Texts should clearly affirm a relationship with God.

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF MUSIC ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE;

1. Any music that is purely secular in nature, and as such, neglects the sacred union of the wedding couple.
2. Popular, operatic, or Broadway musical favorites that merely recall sentimental, personal associations will not be accepted. Such music should be reserved for the wedding reception  
*The so-called "traditional wedding marches" by Wagner and Mendelssohn are not allowed. Both of these compositions are "theater pieces" that have nothing to do with the Sacred Liturgy. The tune, "Here Comes the Bride(Wagner) causes the community to focus on the bride only, when it is clear that the groom is an integral part of the ceremony and married life.*
3. Songs that do not have an obvious relation to prayer.
4. **ANY RECORDED MUSIC SUCH AS CD'S AND TAPES.**
5. Any music that seems ambiguous will need approval from the Music Director. **CONSIDER SELECTING YOUR MUSIC FROM THE LIST OF SUGGESTIONS.**

Therefore, to insure the proper use of music at your wedding, you must meet with your musicians as soon as possible. They will assist you in the selection of appropriate music for your wedding liturgy. Consult the list of musical suggestions. **MUSIC NOT LISTED MUST BE APPROVED BY THE MUSIC DIRECTOR.**

You are free to have friends or relatives play or sing for the ceremony. However, St. Joseph's **REQUIRES THAT AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR MUSICIANS BE A PARISH MUSICIAN--cantor, keyboardist or Music Director.** This person will be responsible for making sure that there are enough microphones and music stands available and that the sound system is being used properly. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**A COPY OF YOUR MUSIC PLANNING SHEET IS DUE IN THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING.**

## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE—WITH MASS

Prelude Music \_\_\_\_\_ (Check with musicians)

Processional Music \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Greeting

Opening Prayer

First Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Second Reading (New Testament)

Gospel Acclamation \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Gospel

Homily

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful

Preparation of the Gifts \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Eucharistic Acclamations (MUST BE SUNG AND LED BY A CANTOR)

Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, Lamb of God

Nuptial Blessing

Lord's Prayer (RECITED BY ALL)

Sign of Peace

Communion Song \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Recessional Music \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Postlude Music (OPTIONAL). Check with musician(s).

**REMINDER: TAPES AND CDS ARE NOT ALLOWED. NO EXCEPTIONS.**  
**YOU MUST EMPLOY AT LEAST ONE ST JOSEPH'S MUSICIAN**  
**(CANTOR, SINGER OR KEYBOARDIST) FOR YOUR WEDDING.**  
**NO EXCEPTIONS.** It is perfectly fine to have another soloist sing one or  
two solos, but a cantor must be present to sing the ritual music.

TIME & DATE OF WEDDING \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDE & GROOM \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICIANS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN THREE  
WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING.

## WEDDING CEREMONY—WITH MASS (Sample)

### GATHERING RITE

*Prelude Music*

*Processional*

*Greeting*

*Opening Prayer*

*Canon in D*  
*by Johann Pachelbel*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

*First Reading (Old Testament)*

*Responsorial Psalm*

*Gen 1: 2-5*  
*Psalm # or Title*

*Second Reading (New Testament)*

*Gospel Acclamation*

*1 Cor 12: 31—13: 8*  
*Celtic Alleluia*  
*by Christopher Walker*  
*Mark 5: 10-14*

*Gospel*

*Homily*

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

*Vows*

*Blessing and Exchange of Rings*

*Prayers of the Faithful*

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Preparation of the Gifts*

*Blest Are They*  
*by David Haas*

*Eucharistic Acclamations*

*Mass of Creation*  
*by Marty Haugen*

*Nuptial Blessing*

*Lord's Prayer*

*Sign of Peace*

*Communion Song*

*Taste and See*  
*by James E. Moore*

### CONCLUDING RITE

*Closing Prayer*

*Final Blessing*

*Recessional*

*Rondeau*  
*by Jacques Mouret*

*Postlude*

## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE---WITHOUT MASS

Prelude Music \_\_\_\_\_ (Check with musicians)

Processional Music \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Greeting

Opening Prayer

First Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Second Reading (New Testament)

Gospel Acclamation \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Gospel

Homily

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Song of Reflection \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord's Prayer (RECITED BY ALL)

Sign of Peace

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Recessional Music \_\_\_\_\_ (See music suggestions)

Postlude Music (OPTIONAL). Check with musician(s).

**REMINDER: TAPES AND CDS ARE NOT ALLOWED. NO EXCEPTIONS.**  
**YOU MUST EMPLOY AT LEAST ONE ST JOSEPH'S MUSICIAN**  
**(CANTOR, SINGER OR KEYBOARDIST) FOR YOUR WEDDING.**  
**NO EXCEPTIONS. It is perfectly fine to have another soloist sing one or**  
**two solos, but a cantor must be present to sing the ritual music.**

TIME & DATE OF WEDDING \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDE & GROOM \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICIANS \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN THREE**  
**WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING.**

## WEDDING CEREMONY---WITHOUT MASS (Sample)

### GATHERING RITE

*Prelude Music*

*Processional*

*Greeting*

*Opening Prayer*

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

*First Reading (Old Testament)*

*Responsorial Psalm*

*Second Reading (New Testament)*

*Gospel Acclamation*

*Gospel*

*Homily*

### RITE OF MARRIAGE

*Vows*

*Blessing and Exchange of Rings*

*Song of Reflection*

*Prayers of the Faithful*

*Nuptial Blessing*

*Lord's Prayer*

*Sign of Peace*

### CONCLUDING RITE

*Closing Prayer*

*Final Blessing*

*Recessional*

*Postlude*

*Canon in D*  
*by Johann Pachelbel*

*Gen 1: 2-5*  
*Psalm # or Title*

*1 Cor 12: 31—13: 8*  
*Celtic Alleluia*  
*by Christopher Walker*  
*Mark 5: 10-14*

*Come and Journey with Me*  
*by David Haas*

*Rondeau*  
*by Jacques Mouret*

**RITUAL MUSIC (Preparation of the Gifts, Communion, Song of Reflection)**

<i>Ave Maria</i>	<i>Schubert</i>
<i>Ave Maria</i>	<i>Bach/Gounod</i>
<i>How Beautiful</i>	<i>Paris</i>
<i>Wherever You Go</i>	<i>Haas</i>
<i>Come and Journey With Me</i>	<i>Haas</i>
<i>I Have Loved You</i>	<i>Joncas</i>
<i>Blest Are They</i>	<i>Haas</i>
<i>You Are Mine</i>	<i>Haas</i>
<i>The Lord's Prayer (Not to be used "in place of" recited Lord's Prayer)</i>	<i>Malotte</i>
<i>When Love is Found</i>	<i>O WALY WALY/Haas/Cotter</i>
<i>*A hymn from the hymnal</i>	

**\*\*\*ANY OTHER COMPOSITION MUST BE APPROVED BY THE  
MUSIC DIRECTOR.\*\*\***

**RECESSIONAL**

<i>Ode to Joy</i>	<i>Beethoven</i>
<i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	<i>Purcell</i>
<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	<i>Purcell</i>
<i>Rondeau</i>	<i>Mouret</i>
<i>Rigaudon</i>	<i>Campra</i>
<i>*A hymn from the hymnal</i>	

**\*\*\*ANY OTHER COMPOSITION MUST BE APPROVED BY THE  
MUSIC DIRECTOR.\*\*\***

***You also may choose to consult the following CATHOLIC Wedding sites for additional help:***

*Catholic Wedding Help*  
*Catholic Wedding Songs*  
*Catholic Wedding Music For Your Ceremony*  
*Catholic Wedding Hymns*

**PLEASE FILL IN YOUR SELECTIONS ON THE WEDDING  
PLANNING FORM AND RETURN TO THE PARISH OFFICE NO  
LATER THAN THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING.**



## Musicians for Weddings

### Organ/Keyboard:

Mary Lou Patnaude ..... 326-2817 (St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Barb Sura..... 326-5161 (St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Ann Dick ..... 218-686-9709 (St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Susan Hoolihan..... 326-3962  
Ann Dimich ..... 326-1639  
Beth Varberg.....507-272-5199(St. Joseph's Parishioner)

### Cantors:

Emily Kessler .....(cell)218-256-8622(St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Yvonne Byrd ..... 326-0887(St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Connie Daigle.....326-9266(St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
(cell)218-259-5404  
Misty Heinz .....(cell)612-270-2175(St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Michelle Kessler.....(cell)218-259-9698(St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Marina Whight.....326-3359(St. Joseph's Parishioner)  
Also guitar and harp

### Music Director

Michelle Kessler ..... 326-2843 Ext. 21

***CHECK MUSIC POLICY FOR WEDDINGS. A MUSICIAN FROM ST. JOSEPH'S IS REQUIRED TO BE AT YOUR WEDDING. IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE MUSIC DIRECTOR.***