

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony  
Wedding Music Guidelines  
St Patrick's Catholic Church

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and begin to plan your wedding, music will normally be an important part of your wedding ceremony. The music you choose will help express your faith and your appreciation for the vocation of marriage. Careful attention to the choice of music will enhance the celebration not only for the two of you, but for all who have come to celebrate with you as you exchange your marriage vows. Below are some guidelines to assist you in selecting music that will enhance the spirit of faith and prayer during your wedding ceremony.

\*\* All music used at your wedding must be approved by the Director of Music.

\*\* Because its primary purpose is to *help people pray*, congregational singing is strongly encouraged. However, vocal solos are appropriate at certain times both before and during the liturgy.

\*\* *Secular selections will not be permitted.* These should be reserved for your reception.

\*\* Use of the parish organist is required. However, other musicians or vocalists are permitted as long as they have had time to meet with the organist and practice with her before the ceremony.

\*\* A worship aid is recommended. It should list all music, including hymn numbers and responses. This will encourage those present to participate fully in the liturgy.

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Music can be selected (but is not required) for the following places in your wedding ceremony:

**Introductory Music**

\*The Prelude This time occurs before the ceremony. This is typically instrumental music (piano/organ) which provides a backdrop for arriving guests, but it might also include some vocal music.

\*The Processional This is usually instrumental and can consist of two pieces, one for the bridal party's entrance and another for the bride's entrance.

\*The Opening Hymn This occurs directly after the Processional. A familiar hymn at this time allows all present to participate in the celebration, praise, and prayer.

The Gloria When the celebration includes Mass, the Gloria is normally sung, again making everyone a participant in the celebration.

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

- \*The Responsorial Psalm This is one of the biblical readings and should be sung in a solo-response style.
- \*The Gospel Acclamation This is normally sung as part of the Mass.
- After the Vows If there is a Marian Presentation or the lighting of a Unity Candle (both are optional), a vocal solo may be used.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist (during the celebration of Mass only)**

- Preparation of Gifts A short vocal or instrumental solo or congregational hymn may take place at this time.
- Eucharistic Acclamations These include the “Holy, Holy, Holy,” the “Memorial Acclamation,” the “Amen,” and the “Lamb of God.” A commonly know Mass setting should be sung.
- Communion Hymn This may be a vocal or instrumental solo and/or a congregational hymn during or following the distribution of Holy Communion. It should express the oneness of the couple and the assembly in the Eucharistic Lord.

## **Concluding Rite**

- \*The Recessional This follows the dismissal and is usually an instrumental selection, during which the wedding party processes out of the church.

If the Eucharist will not be celebrated, only those parts indicated with an asterisk (\*) will need music.