

Saints Faith Hope and Charity Parish

Wedding Music Selection Guidelines

2025

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Selecting Music for your wedding:

Before you choose the music you want at your wedding please remember that a Catholic wedding is a joyful celebration but it is also a Holy Sacrament. The service itself may be only a small part of your big day, but this is the time to consider the importance of the commitment you are making to each other. Music will play an important role in your ceremony and it should therefore be chosen very carefully.

Regardless of whether or not you wish to have a singer at your wedding, in every Catholic wedding, the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and Mass parts should be sung, just as at Sunday Mass. Also, just as on Sunday, the assembly should be encouraged to join in and participate in your celebration as much as possible.

Catholic Mass versus a Rite of Marriage:

You and the Priest who will witness your vows will decide whether your marriage will be celebrated during Mass or outside of Mass. Below are the basic elements of the two different celebrations:

Marriage During Full Mass:

Prelude
Procession
Liturgy of the Word
Rite of Marriage
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Communion Rite
Concluding Rite

Marriage Rite Outside of Mass:

Prelude
Procession
Liturgy of the Word
Rite of Marriage
Concluding Rite

How Music plays a part

Prelude:

Prelude Music is often instrumental; however you may have a singer sing sacred and appropriate songs.

Procession:

There are usually a few different groups who will process into the church to specific music: the family of bride and groom, wedding party, and the bride. The music is most often instrumental; however a congregational Hymn is charming and appropriate. Some popular choices for instrumental processional music are:

The Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke
Canon in D - Pachelbel
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach

Liturgy of the Word:

The Liturgy of the word is comprised of the First and Second Readings, the Responsorial Psalm, the Gospel Acclamation, the Gospel Reading and the Homily. Both the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation should be sung by a cantor. The Gospel Acclamation should be a familiar one, such as the **Celtic Alleluia**.

Rite of Marriage:

This is comprised of the exchange of vows and rings and other elements you may choose to include such as the Lighting the Unity Candle or a Presentation of Flowers to the Virgin Mary. It is appropriate to have music here, either instrumental or sung. A popular choice at the presentation to the Blessed Mother is a setting of the **Ave Maria**.

Liturgy of the Eucharist and Communion Rite (for the full Mass only):

This is exactly as it would be at Sunday Mass. You will choose your preferred setting of the “Holy, Holy” through the “Lamb of God.” The Marty Haugen **Mass of Creation** is the most common and probably the most universal setting. During the distribution of the Eucharist, an appropriate solo may be sung such as **Panis Angelicus** or the assembly can sing a Eucharistic hymn such as **One Bread One Body, Taste and See, Let us break Bread Together, etc.**

Concluding Rite:

The Concluding Rite consists of the Blessing, Dismissal and Recessional. Again this is usually a joyful instrumental piece, but a congregational hymn may also be sung.

Wedding Music Selections/Suggestions

These are purely suggestions and a starting point for your selections. Please use the accompanying

Wedding Music Selection Worksheet to list your selections

(all can be found on YouTube or any streaming service)

Processionals

Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin (Wagner)
Canon in D (Pachelbel)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)
Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)
Adagio from Guitar Concerto (Vivaldi)
Arioso (Bach)
Sheep May Safely Graze (Bach)

Psalms

34: Taste and See (Haugen)
103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful (Cotter) or (Haugen)
128: Blest Are Those Who Love You (Haugen)
118: This is the Day the Lord Has Made (Hommerding)

Unity Candle

Bist du bei mir (Bach)
Grow Old Along with Me (Lennon)
Irish Wedding Song (traditional)
One Hand, One Heart (Bernstein)
Gabriel's Oboe (Morricone)
Wedding Song (Stookey)

Offertory

Air from Water Music (Handel)
Covenant Hymn (Cooney)
Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana (Mascagni)
Largo from Xerxes (Handel)
Flower Duet (Delibes)
Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels (Joncas)

Communion

Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)
How Beautiful (Paris)
I Have Loved You (Joncas)
One Bread, One Body (Foley)
Panis Angelicus (Frank)
Taste and See (Moore)

Presentation to Mary

Ave Maria (Schubert)
Ave Maria (Gounod/Bach)
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman (Landry)

Recessionals

Hornpipe from Water Music (Handel)
March from Judas Maccabeus (Handel)
Ode to Joy (Beethoven)
Prelude to Te Deum (Charpentier)
Rondeau (Mouret)
Trumpet Tune and Air (Purcell)
Toccata from 5th Organ Symphony (Widor)

FEES:

At FHC the cantor and organist are included in the ‘wedding’ stole fee (\$825) that is paid to the church and unless instructed differently the music director at FHC will organize for an organist and cantor to be at the wedding.

CANTORS

It is expected that the wedding couple will engage a FHC cantor. The cantors at FHC are all very experienced professional singers. However, if the wedding couple decide to engage an ‘outside’ cantor/vocalist they must make sure that they are familiar with the Catholic Liturgy. **The couple then pays the vocalist directly.** Of course their fee may be different from the standard fees set at FHC. If an external vocalist is engaged there is no reduction of the “wedding” fee paid to FHC. **If opting for an external cantor/vocalist please let the Music Director know who this is (contact information) in advance of the ceremony.**

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Other musicians (instrumental) greatly enhance the music and can add greatly to the occasion. Often couples opt for a trumpet or string players, either a string trio or quartet. Other instruments which can sound very beautiful at a liturgy are the flute, harp, oboe or clarinet. The music director at FHC can arrange for other musicians to play at a wedding and can act as a contractor. For each additional instrumentalist there will be a \$275 fee – payable directly to the musician (in the case of a harpist their fee is \$400 to reflect the transportation of the instrument and extra set up time. Some couples decide to engage extra instrumentalists themselves either using a contractor or approaching the particular musician directly. **Please make sure that the music director at FHC is aware of this and who will be playing/singing (including contact information) at the wedding, in advance of the ceremony.**

All final music selections including any requests for additional musicians must be made at least 6 weeks prior to the wedding.

Please don’t hesitate to call or email with questions. **Email is preferred.**
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Wedding Music Selection Worksheet

NAMES: _____

WEDDING DATE: _____ TIME: _____

PRELUDE MUSIC:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. FINAL PRELUDE (seating of the mothers and grandmothers)

ATTENDANTS' PROCESSIONAL: _____

BRIDE'S PROCESSIONAL: _____

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: _____

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Alleluia*): _____

UNITY CANDLE (*Optional*): _____

(Full Mass Only)

OFFERTORY (Preparation of the Gifts): _____

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS (*Mass Setting*): _____

1) Holy, Holy 2) Memorial Acclamation 3) Amen 4) Lamb of God

LORD'S PRAYER: _____

SIGN OF PEACE (*Optional*): _____

COMMUNION: _____

MARION DEVOTION (*Optional*): _____

RECESSIONAL: _____