

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 and the Gospel Acclamation 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 Deacon or 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 Music:

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 a charming and appropriate.

Some popular choices for instrumental processional music are:

The Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke

Canon in D - Pachelbel
Ode to Joy – Beethoven
Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring - Bach
The Trumpet Tune - Purcell

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, the Signing of the Marriage License, and the Presentation of Flowers to the Virgin Mary. It is appropriate to have music here, either instrumental or sung. A popular choice is a setting of the **Ave Maria** or Stookey’s **Wedding Song**.

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. Common instrumental recessional are:

Alleluia- Mozart
Trumpet Tune – Purcell
La Rejouissance – Handel
Hornpipe – Handel

**Music Worksheet
For
Marriage During Mass**

Bride & Groom: _____

Musician(s): _____

Musician Contact info: _____
Phone email

Prelude: _____

Entrance # 1: _____
Mother's & other relatives

Entrance #2: _____
Wedding Party

Bride's Entrance: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____

Sacrament of Marriage
--Optional rituals that may require music--
Lighting of the Unity Candle/ Signing of License/Presentation to Mary:

Preparation: _____

- (Holy, Holy)* _____
- Memorial Accl.* _____
- Great Amen* _____
- Lamb of God* _____

Communion: _____

Recessional: _____

Postlude: _____

Notes: _____