



Music for the Weddings

MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music for the wedding should be planned jointly by the couple, in consultation with the music staff. In order to prevent any setback, *do not make any musical plans without consulting the music staff.* Remember that the Sacrament of Marriage is a sacramental celebration. Therefore, one of the basic principles that should influence your selection of music is whether the music is indeed liturgical music. Popular songs and secular music, no matter how meaningful they may be to you, are not appropriate in the liturgy. They may be more appropriately performed at your wedding reception. For the wedding liturgy you'll want to ensure the emphasis is on sacred music, which derives its context from scriptural and liturgical sources, and by its very nature enhances your union within the liturgical rites being celebrated. The music must also be fitting and appropriate for our liturgical space and within the norms of our regular parish music program.

MUSIC STAFF

Members of the parish music staff serve as organist and/or principal musicians at all Blessed Sacrament weddings. As principal musicians for the wedding, they are entrusted with the responsibility of determining suitability of musical selections within the context of the Roman Catholic wedding liturgy, and must approve all music and musicians chosen for the ceremony. The music staff also bears the essential responsibility of ensuring the proper performance and timing of the various musical portions of the wedding liturgy.

CANTOR

A cantor is provided for every wedding and is included in your wedding offering. Only experienced Blessed Sacrament cantors may serve in this capacity. Singers who are not affiliated with Blessed Sacrament are not permitted. This helps to avoid disappointment to the couple and their families since it ensures a desirable continuity with the church's regular worship life, and protects the parish's mission in terms of high quality liturgy. It also helps guarantee that the service will go smoothly because presider, cantor, organist and instrumentalists are accustomed to working with each other as well as with the specific acoustical demands of the liturgical space.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Instrumentalists (trumpet, violin, oboe, flute, harp, trio, quartet, etc.) may be used upon approval of, and arrangement with, the music office. Due to musical and liturgical requirements, only experienced Blessed Sacrament instrumentalists may play for weddings at Blessed Sacrament. If individual instrumentalists are desired, the music staff will secure their services. Instrumentalists who are not affiliated with Blessed Sacrament are not permitted. Instrumental quartets, trios, or other ensembles are contracted independently of Blessed Sacrament Church, and each ensemble likewise sets its fees independently. Contact the music office for more information.