

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH POLICY FOR MUSIC DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Choosing music for your wedding is among the most important tasks you will undertake for your celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. As such, there are several important factors to keep in mind.

1. Because your wedding is a public celebration which takes place in the context of this faith community of St. Andrew, you are bound by liturgical norms and guidelines in the selection of music. The music you select must be, above all else, sacred and lend itself to the beautiful and dignified celebration of the liturgy. In addition, you must be respectful of the local customs of St. Andrew Parish.
2. Because your conferral of the Sacrament on one another is a liturgical celebration, you must take great pains to see that the music chosen will facilitate the full, active, and conscious participation of the assembly. Those present are not passive spectators, but are active witnesses to the vows you pledge. As in any liturgical celebration, the members of the assembly are the primary music makers.

The **Director of Music** is here to assist you in the selection of music and has the final approval of the music you select. You should contact the Director of Music at least four to six weeks prior to the date of your wedding for the purpose of making an appointment to plan the music for the celebration.

It is also necessary to procure, with the assistance of the Director of Music, the services of a **Cantor** who will proclaim in song the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation and any other music chosen which would require a solo voice, e.g. a song for the communion procession in which the verses are sung by the cantor and the assembly responds by singing a refrain. **As the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation are integral to the sacramental celebration whether within or without the context of Mass, a cantor is required.** The following

should help you to understand the nature of the various ritual moments which are a part of the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. If your marriage will take place in the context of the Eucharist, there are more ritual actions which will require music.

PRELUDE

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy makes it clear that the members of the assembly are to dispose themselves to that which is about to be celebrated. The prelude then should foster an atmosphere of prayer and reverential silence while members of the assembly are gathering and being seated. By no means is this limited to one selection, nor is it limited to only instrumental music. This atmosphere of prayer can be fostered as well by an appropriate vocal solo. For practical purposes, the music you select for the prelude will be the last heard prior to the start of the procession.

PROCESSION

Ideally, the procession should be accompanied by a hymn sung by the assembly. At this point in the celebration, however, the assembly's focus is on the procession. Pastorally, it is more fitting that the procession be accompanied by appropriate instrumental music.

GATHERING HYMN

The singing of the hymn by the assembly at this point in the liturgy should refocus the assembly's attention on their role as active participants who are there to pray. An appropriate hymn of praise or a hymn of petition, asking God's blessing on the couple about to be married should be sung. The Director of Music will assist you with choosing fitting texts and tunes for this hymn.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The approved and recommended choices for the Responsorial Psalm text may be found in the marriage preparation booklet, *TogetherForLife*, as items "C-1" through "C-7". Many suitable Psalms are listed, the musical settings of which will be chosen by the Director of Music in consultation with your Cantor. For those printing a program for their

ceremony, the "Antiphon" or "Refrain" should be printed in your program to assist the congregation in their participation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Gospel Acclamation must be sung. An appropriate setting of the "Alleluia" or acclamation of praise during the season of Lent will be chosen.

PRESENTATION / PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Because in the context of a wedding this ritual action does not take a long time, it is important that music not be so long as to interrupt the flow of the liturgy. Often vocal solos will do just that and place undo importance on this part of the liturgy. Instrumental music is highly recommended for the preparation of the gifts.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

The Preface Acclamation, Memorial Acclamation and Concluding Doxology should be chosen from settings that are familiar to most practicing Catholics. As a matter of course, your guests who make up the assembly come from other parishes in the area, but also from other parishes in the U.S. and elsewhere. Keeping in mind the active, full, and conscious participation of the assembly, the setting of these acclamations should be singable and familiar. Marty Haugen's "Mass of Creation" or Richard Proulx's "Community Mass" are among the most familiar and most widely used settings of the Ordinary of the Mass.

FRACTION RITE

The "Lamb of God" should also be familiar to the assembly. Both Mass settings mentioned above contain music for the Fraction Rite.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

The music for the communion procession should be Eucharistic in nature, i.e. expressing praise and thanksgiving and stressing our oneness in Christ. Ideally, a short, simple refrain to be sung by the assembly with the verses sung by the cantor should be selected.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Often the size of the assembly at weddings does not warrant the use of a hymn or refrain to be sung during the communion procession. In that case, instrumental music could be used for the duration of the communion procession and a hymn of praise sung once the members of the assembly have returned to their places after receiving Communion.

OPTIONAL MARIAN DEVOTION

For those wishing to observe the traditional, but entirely optional, Marian Devotion, it will occur near the end of the ceremony, just prior to the Final Blessings. During the procession of bride and groom to and from the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and during prayer at the Shrine, a setting of the “Ave Maria”, or a Marian Chant, such as “Regina Coeli” would be appropriately sung by the Cantor. The pastor does not recommend this for couples who are co-habiting.

RECESSIONAL

The recessional music is traditionally instrumental and joyful in nature. The style may vary from traditional to the avant-garde or from stately to dance-like. The operative words here are appropriate and dignified.

PROGRAM (ORDER OF WORSHIP)

In order to facilitate the full, active, and conscious participation of the assembly at your celebration, the program (also known as the Order of Worship) must include the music and texts which the assembly will be singing. Once the music selections have been chosen, the Director of Music will provide you the copies to incorporate into your Order of Worship. **Before printing, the final draft of your Order of Worship must be approved by the Director of Music.**

All of the above will require your careful consideration and active engagement in dialogue with the Director of Music, who acts as resource and guide as you make your selections.

May God bless you as you begin your new life together in Christ.

MUSICIANS' FEES

Director of Music/Organist - \$150.00 includes consultation and playing for the service.

Parish Cantor - \$75.00 includes singing at the service.

Payment for the above services is incorporated into the Parish Wedding Fee.

If you want someone of your own choosing to sing, this fee is negotiated between you and the singer you have selected. If a rehearsal with the organist is necessary, the charge is \$25.00 per hour of rehearsal; this fee is to be paid to the organist at the time of the rehearsal.

If you wish to contract the services of outside musicians such as trumpeters, violinists, flutists, etc., you may do so. However, if a rehearsal with any outside musician is necessary, the charge is \$25.00 per hour; again this fee is to be paid to the organist at the time of the rehearsal.

Because the St. Andrew Parish Director of Music is responsible for all music offered in the church, it is appropriate that he be the one to plan, rehearse, perform and direct the music at your ceremony. In that rare instance when an organist/director from outside the parish is requested, that person, as well as all musical choices, must be approved by the Director of Music. An additional stipend of \$100.00 is required to be paid to the St. Andrew director, to partially compensate him for income he otherwise would have had from that wedding. This “Bench Fee” as it is called, is due in the Parish Office at the same time as your final payment of the Parish Wedding Fee.

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St. Andrew Church Sacred Music Policy for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage