

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming marriage! **Choosing the music for your wedding** is one of

the many important tasks you will undertake as you prepare your liturgy. These guidelines are designed to assist you in that process.

Your wedding is a public celebration that takes place in the context of the St. Andrew faith community. As a result, 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.

Your conferral of the Sacrament on one another is a liturgical celebration, therefore, you must make every effort 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 should be the primary music-makers, through their participation in the singing. Including the music refrains in your wedding program is an important factor in encouraging full participation.

*The Director of Music will assist you in the selection of music and has the final approval of the music that is chosen. **Several months prior to your wedding date, you should contact the music director to ensure your date is reserved and discuss particular requests or questions regarding your wedding music. It is very important that you do not hire additional musicians or make any specific music selections or wedding program arrangements until you have spoken with the Director of Music.***

A parish Cantor is required for ALL wedding liturgies to proclaim the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation and any other selected music that require a solo voice (e.g. during the Communion procession when the verses are sung by the cantor and the assembly responds by singing a refrain). Because St. Andrew parish cantors are most familiar with the microphones, acoustics and general procedures, they always serve as cantors for our parish weddings and are designated by the music director after your planning session.

THE MUSIC PLANNING SESSION

The planning session with the Director of Music should take place four to eight weeks before the wedding date and typically lasts an hour. During the session you will:

- share contact information and pertinent details about the wedding liturgy
- discuss the parish cantor who will be singing for the wedding (the music director will assist you in making this choice)
- discuss the interest/possibility of other musicians participating in the ceremony
- hear selections of music that are appropriate for each part of the Catholic wedding liturgy
- choose the specific pieces of music that will be played/sung for your wedding ceremony
- view samples of worship aids (programs) that are best suited to encourage participation in the liturgy
- receive a listing of the music you have selected as well as a sample program

DESIGNING YOUR WORSHIP AID (PROGRAM)

To facilitate the full, active and conscious participation of the assembly at your celebration, **the program should include the music that the assembly will be singing.** Once the music selections are made, the Director of Music will provide copies of the music to incorporate into your program. St. Andrew Parish holds reprint licenses for most of the music typically used during wedding liturgies. Do not make any final decisions regarding style, size, number of pages, etc., for your wedding program until AFTER your planning session with the music director. The music director should approve your final program before it is printed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND FEES

The fees for the parish Director of Music/Organist, as well as the parish cantor, are included in the Parish Wedding Fee that you pay to the church. The planning meeting with the music director is included in this fee.

If you choose someone outside of the parish to sing for a portion of the wedding, this fee is negotiated between you and the singer you have selected. **However, a parish cantor is also still required.** If you wish to contract the services of other musicians such as trumpeters, violinists, etc., this is also an option that may be discussed. The music director oftentimes can assist you in finding competent musicians. Please note that if a rehearsal is needed with any outside musicians (vocalists or instrumentalists), there is an additional rehearsal fee for the organist and is paid to the organist at the time of the rehearsal. **Please consult the Director of Music before securing the services of any vocalists or instrumentalists.**

Because the St. Andrew Parish Director of Music is responsible for all music offered in the church, it is appropriate that he plan the music with you, rehearse with other musicians as needed, and play the music at your ceremony. In the rare instance when an organist from outside the parish is requested, that organist, as well as all musical choices, must be approved by the Director of Music. An additional stipend of \$100 (called a Bench Fee) is paid to the St. Andrew music director to partially compensate him for income he otherwise would have had from that wedding. This fee is paid to the Parish Office at the same time as your final payment of the Parish Wedding Fee.

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The following **information** is intended to help you **understand** the various **ritual moments** that are a part of the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. If your marriage takes place without a complete

Mass those sections marked with an asterisk are omitted.

PRELUDE

The prelude music should prepare the gathered assembly for the sacred liturgy that is about to be celebrated. It should foster an atmosphere of prayer and reverent silence as members of the assembly are gathering and being seated. This atmosphere of prayer can be fostered with appropriate instrumental as well as vocal music.

THE ENTRANCE PROCESSIONAL

In most liturgical settings, the entrance procession is accompanied by a hymn sung by the assembly. However, at this point in the wedding celebration the assembly's focus is usually on the procession. Pastorally, it is appropriate for the procession to be accompanied by instrumental music. The entrance processional may be followed by a congregational hymn if you prefer.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The approved and recommended choices for the Responsorial Psalm text are found in the marriage preparation booklet, *Together For Life*, as items "C-1" through "C-7." The Director of Music will assist you in selecting a setting of one of those psalms, during your planning session.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Gospel Acclamation is always sung. An appropriate setting of the "Alleluia" (or an acclamation of praise during the season of Lent) will be chosen.

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS*

In the context of a wedding, this ritual action does not take a long time; therefore, the music selected should not be so long

as to interrupt the flow of the liturgy. Often vocal solos will do just that and place undue importance on this part of the liturgy. Instrumental music is recommended for this time in the ceremony.

MASS SETTINGS *

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy), Memorial Acclamation and Concluding Doxology (Amen) should be chosen from settings that are familiar to most practicing Catholics. To continue the full, active and conscious participation of the assembly, the setting of these acclamations should be singable and familiar.

COMMUNION PROCESSION *

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

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 Blessing. 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 another appropriate Marian hymn is sung.

RECESSIONAL

The recessional music is traditionally instrumental. The music should be joyful, yet dignified, in nature.

If you have any questions or if you wish to set up an appointment to plan your wedding music,

please contact the Director of Music. *We look forward to celebrating this special day with you.*

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

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