



## **Spires of Faith Music Guide for the Order of Celebrating Matrimony**

### **Congratulations!**

We are glad you have chosen to be married within the Church in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony. Our entire cluster staff is here to assist you should you have any questions in your planning. Your ceremony will reflect the sacredness of this Holy Sacrament through your choices of sacred scripture and sacred music.

The following selections of music are intended as suggestions to help couples and musicians choose from many selections of available sacred music that are acceptable for Catholic wedding liturgies. Please note that all music for your ceremony should be sacred, including your prelude and postlude music. The hymns found in our parish hymnals are a great source to find appropriate selections for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. All music selections must be approved prior to the wedding day by the cluster Music Director. Once you have selected your music, you will enter your selections via Google spreadsheet. You will receive that template in an e-mail.

It is extremely beneficial that all wedding couples make contact via e-mail, phone, or in person meeting with our music director before musicians and music are selected. This allows for a better understanding and vision in planning your wedding liturgy, as well as helpful direction in choosing accompanists and cantors. Again, we are happy to assist you with any questions you may have, and we look forward to celebrating this Holy Sacrament with you!

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# Opportunities for Music in the Wedding Liturgy

## **Prelude/Seating of Family**

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. Prelude music, therefore, should foster an atmosphere of prayer and reverential silence while members of the assembly are gathering and being seated. Several selections may be used; combining instrumental as well as appropriate vocal pieces. The final piece should be used for the formal seating of grandparents and other prominent family members.

## **Antiphons (Entrance and Communion)**

The Music Director will provide music for your musicians. These short pieces of scripture set the tone of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. When this is used before the procession, there is no need for an Entrance Hymn.

## **Procession/Entrance Hymn**

The procession should be appropriate for the occasion. Whether instrumental or sung, all selections should be an appropriate hymn of praise or a hymn of petition, asking God's blessing on the couple to be married. If antiphon is not used, the Entrance Hymn must be sung directly after the procession.

## **Gloria**

Chosen from a Mass setting familiar to the parish

## **Responsorial Psalm**

The musical setting of any psalm is appropriate here. Psalms 33, 34, 103, 112, 128, 145, and 148 are very appropriate for weddings. The psalm should be sung.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

The Gospel acclamation should always be sung. An appropriate setting of the "Alleluia" or acclamation of praise during the season of Lent can be chosen.

## **Hymn of Praise (optional)**

An *optional* hymn of praise may be song following the exchange of rings for reflection.

## **Presentation/Preparation of the Gifts**

A sacred time of preparing the altar for the Eucharist. Because this ritual action does not take a long time during a marriage ceremony, it is important that music not be so long as to interrupt the flow of the liturgy.

## **Eucharistic Acclamations**

These should be chosen from settings that are familiar to most practicing Catholics easy for the assembly to sing. Your Parish music director can provide assistance with familiar Mass settings.

## **Communion Procession**

The music for the communion procession should be Eucharistic in nature: expressing praise and thanksgiving and stressing our oneness in Christ.

## **Recessional**

The music at the concluding procession (recessional) is traditionally instrumental and joyful as the newly married couple takes their first "walk" together as husband and wife.

## **Postlude**

Instrumental selections while the bride and groom greet their guests as they exit the Church.

# Wedding Music Suggestions

## Prelude Music (Vocal)

- The Gift of Love (O Waly, Waly).....arr. Hal Hopson
- Ave Maria.....Arcadelt, Bach/Gounod, Schubert, etc.
- Set Me As A Seal.....Song of Songs
- Love Goes On.....B. Farell
- Love Has Come.....Matt Maher
- Arise My Love.....Tony Alonso
- Litany of Love.....Alonso/Haugen
- Hymns are also recommended here.....

## Procession/Recessional/Prelude/Postlude Music (Instrumental)

- Air.....Bach
- Air from Water Music.....Handel
- Canon in D.....Pachabel
- Hornpipe from Water Music.....Handel
- Rondeau.....Mouret
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring.....Bach
- Ode to Joy.....Beethoven
- Sheep May Safely Graze.....Bach
- Trumpet Tune.....Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March).....Clarke
- Threads of Love.....L. Line
- Spring (From the Four Seasons) .....Vivaldi
- The Rejoicing .....Handel
- Allegro Maestoso from Water Music.....Handel
- Prelude from Te Deum.....Charpentier

## Hymns (Also appropriate for Processional or Recessional)

- All Creatures of Our God and King
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
- Be Thou My Vision
- O God Beyond All Praising
- Holy, Holy, Holy

<p><b>Other Sacred Hymns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God Who Created Hearts to Love</li> <li>Where Love is Found</li> <li>This is The Day the Lord Has Made</li> <li>Open My Eyes</li> <li>Where Love is Found</li> <li>For the Beauty of the Earth</li> <li>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</li> <li>I Have Loved You</li> <li>Eye Has Not Seen</li> <li>In Christ Alone</li> <li>Ubi Caritas</li> </ul>	<p><b>Communion Hymns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panis Angelicus</li> <li>Taste and See</li> <li>Gift of Finest Wheat</li> <li>One Bread, One Body</li> <li>O Sacrament Most Holy</li> <li>The Supper of the Lord</li> <li>I Received the Living God</li> <li>Worthy is the Lamb</li> <li>Behold the Lamb</li> <li>Adoro Te Devote / Humbly Lord, We Worship You</li> <li>Bread of Angels</li> </ul>
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# MARRIAGE CEREMONY MUSIC SELECTIONS

--Please note that music for marriage ceremonies must be either taken from our rich history of Catholic hymns, an approved Christian hymn, or a classical instrumental piece. Vocal and instrumental versions of secular songs are not approved. Options indicated with an asterisk (\*) are only included during the celebration of Mass.

## Preludes/Seating of Grandparents (optional)

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## Introductory Rite

**Entrance Antiphon (Sung, Required)**

**Bridal Party Entrance:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Gloria: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

## The Liturgy of the Word

**Responsorial Psalm:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gospel Acclamation:** \_\_\_\_\_

## The Celebration of Marriage

The Consent (Vows)

Reception of Consent: **Priest** – “Let us Bless the Lord.” **People** – “Thanks be to God.”

Giving of Rings (couple exchanges rings)

Hymn of Praise (*optional*): \_\_\_\_\_

## \*Liturgy of the Eucharist

\*Offertory Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Eucharistic Acclamations: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Communion Antiphon (Sung, Required)

\*Communion Hymn(s): \_\_\_\_\_ \*

## Conclusion

**Recessional:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instrumental Postlude (optional)**