

Dear Engaged Couple,

On behalf of St. Joseph Music Ministry, ***congratulations*** on your engagement and upcoming marriage!

This packet of information that will assist you in the specific preparation of the music for your wedding.

Included in the packet are:

- Material entitled “We Can’t Emphasize Enough”...topics that are important to emphasize regarding the music at your wedding.
- Information on arranging for musicians:
- Process for hiring organist/pianist and cantor (song leader)
- Option for extra instrumentalists
- Fee information

Please call the Parish Director of Music at 847-990-1276 following your meetings with the clergy and the Wedding Coordinator (at least three months before your date is best).

Enjoy this time of planning and preparation! For any wedding music questions, feel free to call me!

Sincerely,

Ron Vanasdlen

Wedding Music Information
St. Joseph Church
Libertyville, Illinois

Music plays an integral part in the wedding liturgy and the parish music director will assist you in planning this important part of your celebration. Please also review the material in the St. Joseph Wedding Music pages that can be found at the end of this guide. In it you will find important information regarding what music is appropriate, musicians, fees, and worship aids (programs.) Extra copies can be accessed by contacting the parish office or on the parish website www.stjoseph-libertyville.org under the sacraments page. Scheduling music ministers for your celebration well in advance is a great idea!

Getting Started

Start by Calling the Director of Music The first step is to call or email the Director of Music at St. Joseph. Generally this is done about three months ahead of time (or sooner), as it is a good idea to have your musicians in place by this time. But don't panic if you have missed this mark!

Please note: A minimum of **two music ministers are needed for all** wedding liturgies. This includes a cantor (vocalist) who leads the sung prayer of the people (sung parts of the Mass) and a keyboard player – who accompanies this prayer on either the organ and/or piano. Only a parish cantor or a cantor from another Catholic parish may sing the Mass parts. Our Music Director is the only musician permitted to play our pipe organ. Exceptions to this must be approved. The music director will provide you with a list of parish cantors who are available to minister at your wedding. These cantors sing regularly at St. Joseph on the weekends. The Music Director can give you a current cantor schedule which will provide you with an opportunity to hear them at our weekend Masses.

Check out your local public library for recordings to hear different selections (YouTube is also a wonderful and covenant resource for you). Most instrumentalists also have web sites or provide their own demo tapes.

Additional Musicians

Depending on your taste and your budget, you may opt to enhance the celebration by hiring additional vocalists who will sing your vocal solos or instrumentalists to play before and during the liturgy. Please bring this to the attention of the Music Director who can provide you with a list of musicians should you need one.

Use St. Joseph Musicians

There are many reasons to use our parish musicians on your wedding day.

They:

- are all professionally trained musicians and understand the requirements of a Catholic wedding celebration, so we can assure you of their competency.
- know what the assembly sings as well as how to lead them in singing.
- know what and how to do the musical pieces that occur as part of a wedding liturgy.
- know the church space, its acoustics, microphone system, and keyboard instruments.
- know the various styles of presiding that the priests from St. Joseph have.
- are dependable.

Non-St. Joseph Musicians

This doesn't mean that music ministers from other Catholic parishes cannot do a fine job. It simply means that we cannot recommend them because we are not familiar with their song leading and singing capabilities. Regardless of your choice for cantor, make sure that they are experienced as cantors – leaders of song in Catholic liturgies. There is a major difference between a cantor and a soloist. You may decide to have a friend sing a solo and also hire an experienced cantor to lead the congregational singing.

Additional instrumentalists are welcome to participate in your celebration, however, they set their own fees and these may also be given to the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal unless other payment arrangements have been made between you and them.

In the event that you use a non-St. Joseph musician, the Music Director will contact the individual to determine how best to suit your musical requirements for the liturgy. Please provide contact information as possible so that there are no miscommunications!

Stipends/Fees

These are in concurrence with the stipend guidelines currently recommended by the Archdiocese of Chicago:

- Music Director (organist and/or piano): \$250
- Cantor: \$150 (from the parish)

- Additional rehearsals or services required may incur an additional fee.
- Please pay your cantor and organist/pianist before the wedding liturgy.
- additional instrumentalists (violins, flutes, harp, etc.) set their own fees.

Please give your stipends for the music ministers to the Wedding Coordinator at your rehearsal.

An additional stipend is required if extra rehearsals are requested by your cantor/soloist/instrumentalist. Typically guest musicians will require at least a one-half hour rehearsal (included in the stated stipend at a time convenient to the musicians and the availability of the church (this is typically done immediately before the start of the wedding). If rehearsals beyond this are needed a stipend of **\$75 per hour** or portion thereof is required.

If you are planning either a visiting organist (including piano or keyboard) or not needing organ/piano accompaniment in your liturgy then a stipend of **\$150** is required to assist your visiting musician(s). This stipend includes setting up microphones, music stands and/or assisting a visiting musician with the church organ and/or sound system. Consultation by the parish music director on music selections and liturgical options **is still required** and is covered by this stipend.

The use of pre-recorded music during a church liturgy is not permitted.

Cantor/Soloist – typical stipend is \$150, however, your soloist may have a higher stipend depending on the amount of music and the difficulty of music you select. Soloists may require a higher stipend depending on the amount of training he or she has. You may have two individuals functioning in these ministries. The **Cantor** sings the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and assists the Assembly with sung responses and/or Assembly songs/hymns. Your **soloist** would only sing music not sung with the Assembly during the Prelude/Gathering, Unity Candle, Visitation to the Blessed Mother and/or Preparation of the Gifts.

The music director does not negotiate fees asked by either the soloist and/or cantor from other Catholic parishes. The Bride/Groom meets independently with these musicians and agrees upon the stipend. **All music selections are reviewed by the Music Director for use in the Wedding Mass/Ceremony.** If your soloist/cantor ministers regularly at St. Joseph, you are not subject to additional rehearsal stipends unless the music is new to both the cantor and music director, however, if your cantor/soloist is not from the parish additional stipends will be requested in order to adequately prepare your musician. The Additional stipend is **\$75 per rehearsal hour** or portion thereof. The couple is required to furnish all music bought for the wedding if neither the music director nor instrumentalist(s)/vocalist(s) owns a copy of the music requested. The music director in conjunction with the cantor/soloist will determine which arrangement is best for the musicians.

Instrumentalist(s) – Many fine musicians are available in the area. Flute, Violin, Trumpet and Harp are usually requested. These musicians set their own rates. As necessary, the music director will arrange music for instrumentalist(s) for organ/piano and instrument if these are not available for sale by music retailers. The couple is required to furnish all music bought for the wedding if neither the music director nor instrumentalist owns a copy of the music requested. The music director in conjunction with the instrumentalist will determine which arrangement is best for the musicians. An additional stipend of **\$75 per hour** may be required.

If you are having a string quartet or any variation of instruments that does not require keyboard accompaniment the set up and tear-down stipend of **\$150 still applies**.

Selecting Music for the Assembly

On the day of your wedding liturgy, you are bringing together a group of people who will pray and celebrate the sacrament with you. Identifying who they are will assist in selecting appropriate music. Are your family and friends predominately Catholic? If so, are they predominantly St. Joseph parishioners? Perhaps one of you (bride or groom) is not Catholic and/or perhaps there will be a large number of non-Catholics participating. In this case, it is important to include one or more ecumenical hymns (a hymn sung by many denominations). The goal is for active participation by all gathered.

Hymns and/or songs that are familiar to the congregation and in which they can participate are given preference. This does not mean there should be no solo music. What is important is to achieve an appropriate balance of assembly music and solo music. Keep in mind the Mass we celebrate on Sunday: the parts that the assembly sings on Sunday are the same parts they sing during the wedding liturgy. This includes the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Offertory, Communion and all responses during the Mass.

Worship Aid

It is important to provide the assembly with a printed booklet (a worship aid) that not only serves as a memento of the day but also as a means for everyone to participate in the sung prayer. Please note that there are no hymnals in the pews at St. Joseph (each weekend a song sheet is provided). It is easy to include the short refrains of the assembly's music. The music director will provide you with print-ready material to simply "paste" in at the appropriate spaces! Naturally it is necessary to include copyright information when reprinting music and St. Joseph has the appropriate licenses. There is no additional charge for this since the parish pays an annual reprint license. The appropriate reprint permissions must be included in your worship aid. Your wedding coordinator will have samples for your review.

Music List

Many churches either have a list of music that you must choose from, or a list of music that you cannot use. Though we do not make use of either kind of list, we do follow the liturgical guidelines: secular texts are not sung at liturgies, and this includes wedding liturgies. This is because these texts do not reflect the *Christian* view of love and the *sacrament* being celebrated. Some songs, while perhaps beautiful music and sentimentally nostalgic, are inappropriate for liturgy and are best used at the reception or rehearsal. However, there is a sample list of music which has been most often requested for your consideration following this information.

Responsorial Psalm

Though you may familiarize yourself with the suggested Responsorial Psalm texts in the collection of readings, *wait* until you meet with the Director of Music before selecting which one you wish to use. This way, you can base your selection on both text *and* music. Psalm 128 seems most appropriate for a wedding, however, the composer has altered the text to accommodate the music. (You may find this in any of the musical compositions for Psalms). The Music Director will give you the text of any altered Psalms.

Selecting the Music Ordinarily it is the Music Director that will meet with you to assist in the selection of both sung and instrumental music. At this consultation we work together to choose music that is not only suitable for the liturgy, but that is unique to your taste and style as a couple as well as suited to your assembly of family and friends. Please call soon to set up a mutually convenient time. When the music has been chosen, that which needs to be included in the Worship Aid will be provided along with appropriate copyright permission information.

Recorded Music?

Just as pre-recorded homilies, readings or vows are not appropriate, pre-recorded music is not permissible for use during weddings or any other Catholic liturgy.

Opportunities for Vocal Solo Music

Places in the liturgy for solo music are:

- Prelude
- Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory)
- Unity Candle
- Visitation to the Blessed Mother

Typical Music Options for Weddings
St. Joseph Parish, Libertyville, IL

Congratulations on your upcoming celebration. My ministry here at the parish is to accommodate your desires into this glorious day as much as possible and permitted by the guidelines of the parish and the Church concerning a liturgical wedding celebration.

The following music is suggested for your celebration and may be tailored to your individual liturgy.

As your guests are seated: (about 15 minutes before you walk down the aisle)

May be a combination of vocal or instrumental music.

The following music is optional and may begin 5 minutes before the start of the Mass.

Seating of the Grandmothers

Seating of the Mothers (could be the same music)

Entrance of the Bridal Party (may be a different selection or the same as the Bride)

Entrance of the Bride

You may have any combination of a procession and when we meet to finalize your liturgy we can discuss these options.

During the Liturgy (all parts of the liturgy marked with * are required)

The Gathering or Opening Hymn is not required as on Sunday.

Penitential Act (is omitted for weddings).

Gloria or Glory to God is sung or said by all (preferably sung). This may be omitted with guidance from the presiding priest or deacon.

Responsorial Psalm (is always sung by a cantor (specifically trained for this ministry) and follows the First Reading). These are listed for you in **Section C *** of the *Together for Life, Fifth Edition*.

Gospel Acclamation (**Section E ***) is always sung by a cantor and follows the Second Reading if there is one. If you only have one reading before the Gospel, the Gospel Acclamation immediately follows the Responsorial Psalm).

Unity Candle – If you are lighting the Unity Candles as part of the Rite of Marriage then either a brief vocal or instrumental piece may be played during this time (you may have silence during this time as well). (The Unity Candle is always optional in a Catholic wedding).

The Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful are usually spoken although the cantor may sing them.

Presentation of the Gifts * – either a vocal or instrumental selection may be played at this time. The selection is brief and lasts only for the duration of rite. An Assembly song may also be selected and sung by all gathered. This too concludes at the end of the priest's prayers.

The Eucharistic Acclamations *, if you are celebrating a Mass, are to be sung. These include the Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen and the Lamb of God. These are chosen from the usual settings sung at St. Joseph on Sundays.

The Lord's Prayer is best spoken by all present however it may be sung. Only the official liturgical version may be sung. Since Catholic and Protestants share this common prayer of the Christian Faith in their respective traditions many couples opt to speak the prayer.

Communion Procession * – This is a required congregational song. Any music sung at a Sunday Mass is appropriate. The music selected should be well known by the congregation. An ecumenical hymn or song is appropriate if your guests are not all Catholic. If not too lengthy a Communion Meditation may be sung by a soloist after all have received Communion.

Flowers to the Blessed Mother – (optional at all weddings) This may be a vocal or instrumental selection. An Assembly song honoring the Blessed Mother is also appropriate.

Sending Forth – The Recessional * is played as you leave the church. A Postlude may be played as the Assembly (your guests) leave the church. This typically is an instrumental selection.

All music which must be reprinted in your worship aid (program) will be provided by the music director

Most music requested for a Wedding is classical in origin. You may have any genre of church music for your ceremony that is suitable for a liturgy. These are the most requested pieces and may be available for your listening on YouTube:

Any of these pieces are suitable wherever you'd like to place them.

Adagio from Sonata in E-Flat - (Mozart)	Bist du bei Mir (You are with Me) (Bach)
Air (from Water Music) (Handel)	Brandenburg Concerto No.3 – (Bach)
Air on the G String (Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D) (Bach)	Moonlight Sonata (Beethoven)
Allegro Maestoso from Water Music - (Handel)	Sheep May Safely Graze – (Bach)
Arioso - (Bach)	Spring (from the Four Seasons) (Vivaldi)
	The Four Seasons – (Vivaldi)

Processional

Bridal Chorus (Here Comes the Bride) (Wagner)	Trumpet Voluntary (Boyce)
Canon in D – (Pachelbel)	Wedding March – (Sound of Music)
Trumpet Tune – (Purcell)	Wherever You Go – (David Haas)
	<i>Any of the Trumpet Tunes</i>

Unity Candle (may be a vocal or solo or instrumental)

And on This Day (English)	By My Side (Porter)
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Offertory (may be sung by all present or a solo may be sung)

Where Love Is Found (Schutte)	God, Who Created Hearts to Love (Ridge)
May God Bless You (Van Grieken)	Wherever You Go (Weston Priory)
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father (Huxhold)	When Love Is Found (Wren)
	Where There Is Love (Haas)

Communion (to be sung by all present) and Communion Meditation (any vocal or instrumental selection)

Amen. El Cuerpo de Cristo (Schiavone)	One Bread, One Body (Foley)
Gift of Finest Wheat (Westendorf)	Song of the Body of Christ (Haas)
I Am the Bread of Life (Toolan)	Spirit and Grace (Manalo)
In the Breaking of the Bread (Hurd)	Taste and See (Moore)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)	Ubi Caritas (Hurd)
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Ode To Joy)" from the 9th Symphony (Beethoven)	

Visitation to the Blessed Mother

Ave Maria - (Schubert) *Or any Marian song*

This may be a solo or any Marian song sung by the assembly.

Recessional

Hornpipe - Water Music (Handel)	Rondeau(Mouret)
La Rejouissance - Royal Fireworks Music (Handel)	Suite in D major: Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary) - (Clark)
Processional to Te Deum (Charpentier)	Wedding March – Mendelssohn

You may contact me at any time to assist you in any way possible with your music.

All my best to you as you plan this wonderful day.

Ron Vanasdlen, Director of Music - rvasdlen@stjoseph-libertyville.org

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