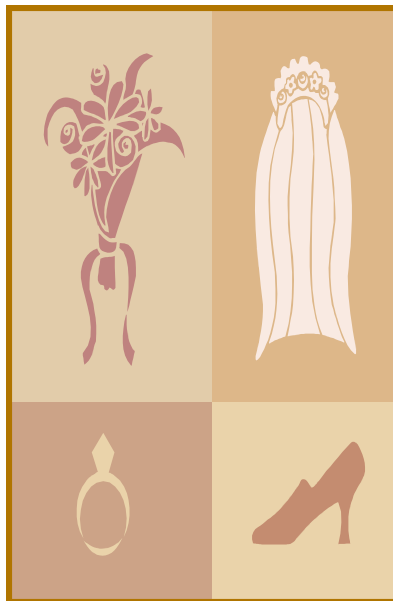


Faith, Hope and Love. . .

*Guidelines to help you choose
music for your Wedding Ceremony*



Program of the Wedding Ceremony

- *Processional*
- *Liturgy of the Word*
- *Exchange of wedding vows and rings*
- *Liturgy of the Eucharist*
- *Recessional*



Contact Information

Immaculate Conception Church - 508-238-3232

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding the planning of your wedding ceremony, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We will try to accommodate you in a liturgically responsible way to help to make your celebration everything you hope it can be.

Wedding Music Director/Vocalist

The parish Director of Music serves as principal vocalist at all Immaculate Conception Parish weddings. The Director of Music is entrusted with the responsibility of determining the suitability of musical selections within the context of the Catholic wedding liturgy, and must approve all music chosen for the ceremony. The bridal couple should be in contact with the Director well in advance of the wedding date to go through the process of choosing all the music for the ceremony. It is customary for the vocalist to receive a stipend for wedding services. The established fee is \$125.

Organist/Principal Musician

Mrs. Philomena LeBoeuf is the Organist and Principal Musician here at Immaculate Conception Parish and serves at all weddings working closely with the Director of Music to be sure that all selections are within the context of the Catholic wedding liturgy. It is customary for the organist to receive a stipend for wedding services. The established fee is \$125.

Instrumentalists

Instrumentalists (trumpet, violin, cello, flute, harp, trio, quartet, etc) may be used upon approval of, and arrangement with, the Wedding Music Director. Should you desire to incorporate instrumentalists as part of your wedding ceremony, you will need to secure the services of these musicians on your own. Recommendations are available upon request.

Planning

Music for the wedding should be planned jointly by the couple in consultation with the Music Director. The emphasis must be on liturgical music—music which derives its context from scriptural sources and, by its very nature, enhances the sacramental union of the couple in Christ.

The Church has recognized the organ as the principal instrument of divine worship and ICC houses a very fine pipe organ in an excellent acoustical environment. Organ music can enhance the liturgy by evoking a spirit of joy proper to the celebration of Christian marriage. The organ sets the festive tone of the ceremony, especially during the prelude, processional and recessional.

During the offertory and communion, an organ repertoire of a more meditative spirit could be utilized.



PLEASE NOTE: Only experienced Immaculate Conception Parish cantors and musicians are permitted to serve in this capacity at weddings. 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 celebrant, cantor and organist are accustomed to working with each other as well as with the specific acoustical demands of the liturgical space.

Guidelines

The church wedding is a sacred rite invoking the blessing of God on the union of bride and groom. Any music used in connection with the ceremony must mirror the dignity of the sanctuary and sanctity of the sacrament being celebrated. The music and texts selected must express the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation and model for marriage, or the asking of God's presence and blessing. For these reasons, music from the operatic stage or secular theatre is not permitted.

What follows here is a description of the points at which music is used in the typical wedding ceremony.

Music For Your Wedding Ceremony

Prelude:

Prior to the beginning of the liturgy, there is a PRELUDE consisting of about 10-15 minutes of instrumental music as guests arrive and are seated. Music during this time is usually selected at the discretion of the Organist. Often the prelude is comprised entirely of solo organ repertoire, however, the soloist could sing one meditation if desired.

Seating of the Mothers:

Couples often wish to have the seating of their mothers highlighted and accompanied by a special piece of music. The seating of the mothers takes place just prior to the procession of the wedding party, so the music should be clearly different from that of the processional. A meditative vocal solo or relatively quiet instrumental piece is usually best here.

Processional:

The processional is played by the organ alone. It is customary to use one selection for the wedding party as they process down the isle and a second, distinct, selection for the Bride's processional.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

The responsorial psalm is sung by the soloist following the first reading. There are many psalms from which to choose. Several are printed in the book *Together for Life* by Joseph Champlin, which also contains readings, prayers and blessings for the wedding liturgy. If you are printing a wedding program, be sure to print the words of the psalm refrain so your guests can join in the singing.

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Before the gospel reading, an "Alleluia" is always sung (except during Lent). This will be led by the soloist. During the season of Lent, alleluias are omitted from the Church's liturgies, and a Lenten Gospel Acclamation is sung instead.

Gospel Reading and Homily

Exchange of Marriage Vows and Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle

(Though not an official part of the marriage ceremony, you may elect to include this as part of your celebration.)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

If you are planning a full mass, including communion as part of the wedding ceremony, the liturgy continues with music during the offertory. During this time, a musical selection is sung by the soloist while the bread and wine are brought to the altar and presented to the priest.

Acclamations (Service Music)

The soloist will lead the congregation in music as we sing the acclamations during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These include the Sanctus (Holy, Holy), the Memorial Acclamation, the Great Amen and the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God). These acclamations are taken from the Mass of Creation, arranged by Marty Haugen.



Lord's Prayer

Sometimes couples ask to have the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) sung. Although this generally works well at Sunday liturgies, keep in mind that your wedding guests will likely come from several different churches and faiths. Since this is the one common prayer among all Christian denominations, it is very important that everyone be able to join in praying it together. For these reasons, the Lord's Prayer is spoken, rather than sung, at wedding liturgies.

Sign of Peace

Since the sign of peace involves speaking and movement on the part of the congregation and since the Lamb of God follows immediately, it is not appropriate to have music at this point.

Lamb of God

This is sung immediately following the sign of peace and is lead by the vocalist, just before communion.

Communion

In selecting music for communion, please keep in mind the nature of the Eucharistic rite as a sign of the unity of everyone gathered. If you have a congregation that likes to sing, a congregational hymn would be very appropriate here. A vocal solo or a meditative organ/instrumental selection could work well. Please note that one piece of music is usually sufficient.

Recessional

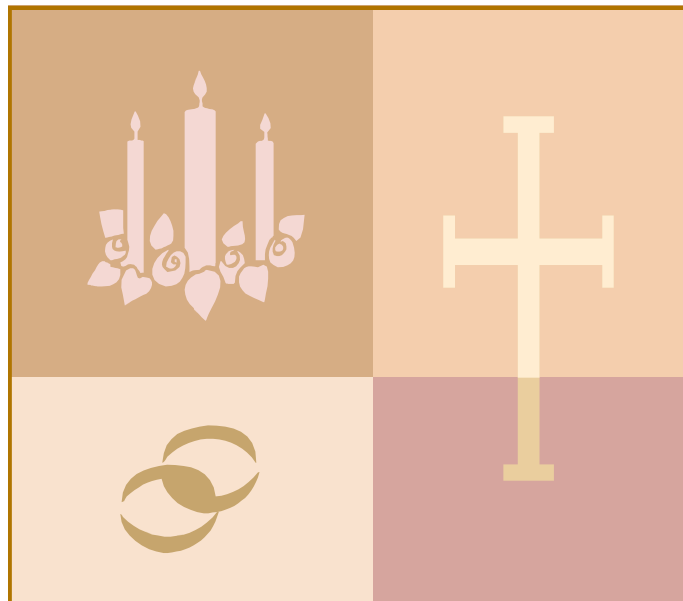
This is usually the liturgy's most festive and joyous of musical expressions. Played by the organ alone, you might notice that some of these pieces are listed as processions earlier. That is because they can work for either the entrance procession at the beginning of the wedding or the exit recessional at the end. One selection is sufficient.

Congratulations! By carefully considering the reverent nature of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony and choosing music and text that reflect your love of God through each other, you are certain to hold the memory of your wedding ceremony warmly in your heart for years to come! May God bless you and keep you all the days of your lives!



Faith, Hope and Love

*Selecting Music for your
Wedding Liturgy*



Choosing your Wedding Music

Resources

Our parish priest is your best possible resource for planning music, choosing text, blessings and, in general, anything to do with your wedding ceremony. Additionally, he is able to put you in contact with the people connected with liturgy planning.

Choosing music for your wedding mass celebration can appear to be a daunting task, at first. Speaking with the wedding music director will help to get you started in the right direction. Today, it is easier than ever to make informed choices before you ever meet with the director. Naturally, even utilizing all the tools available, it is important to meet with the music director in person in order to finalize your selections. In addition, seek out the opinions of family and friends whose opinions you trust.

The music listed on the following pages are suggestions based on what is generally requested. These suggestions, while excellent choices for your wedding ceremony, are just some of the wide selection of possibilities available. Please keep in mind the sanctity of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony when seeking out musical selections. Occasionally, you may find a selection that speaks to your heart, which you might want to include in your ceremony, but may not actually be in keeping with the reverent nature of the liturgy. In those instances, a selection like that may be best enjoyed during the reception with all of your guests.

You can find samples of most of the music suggested on the following page on the iTunes website at www.itunes.com as well as an extremely comprehensive midi file collection at www.stclementchurch.org/worship/sacraments/weddings/music.php. Scroll down to the highlighted links for each selection you would like to listen to. There are many other informational sites throughout the internet that can be helpful as well.

Immaculate Conception Church



Seating of the Mothers

1. Ave Maria – Franz Schubert
2. On This Day, O Beautiful Mother – Lambillotte
3. Hail Mary: Gentle Woman – Carey Landry
4. Mother, At Your Feet Is Kneeling – H.L. Harts

Processional / Recessional

1. Wedding March (Midsummer Night's Dream)
2. A Song of Joy
3. Hornpipe – George Frideric Handel
4. Trumpet Voluntary – Henry Purcell
5. Jesu; Joy of Mans Desiring – Johann Sebastian Bach
6. Canon In D – Johan Pachelbel
7. Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell
8. Fanfare Rondeau (Theme from Masterpiece Theatre)
– Jean-Joseph Mouret
9. Wedding March – recessional – (Midsummer Night's Dream)

Responsorial Psalm

1. Psalm 118: This Is the Day – J. Michael Joncas
2. Psalm 98: All the Ends of the Earth – David Haas
3. Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful – Marty Haugen
4. You Are All We Have – Francis Patrick O'Brien

Offertory / Communion Skip if not having a full mass.

1. Irish Wedding Song
2. Wedding Song
3. Wherever You Go – Weston Priory
4. Wherever You Go – David Haas
5. Come and Journey With Me – David Haas
6. Every Morning In Your Eyes – Rory Cooney
7. The Gift of Love – Hal H. Hopson
8. A Wedding Prayer – Lou Fortunate
9. All I Ask of You – Gregory Norbet, OSB
10. Faith, Hope and Love – David Haas
11. Where There Is Love – David Haas

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