

How to begin planning the music for your wedding Mass

The information below will help you organize the music for your wedding. The organist and soloist you hire—as well as the parish music director—can help you make good choices.

Please note that because your wedding is a sacramental occasion taking place during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the music chosen must be truly sacred and appropriate. Secular music (e.g., pop, Broadway tunes, opera, etc.) is not permitted. If you're in doubt, the music director will be happy to help. She will need to approve your planned music not later than two months before the wedding date.

Organ

The organist will help you choose music for the prelude, if any; the procession of the mothers/grandmothers; the procession of the attendants; the bride's procession; and the recessional.

Any professional organist will have a good repertory and can play examples for you, make recommendations, etc.

Service music

If your wedding will take place during the celebration Mass, you'll need to decide which Mass ordinary (the unchanging parts—e.g., the Gloria, Lamb of God, etc.) will be sung. At Holy Ghost we typically sing the ICEL simple chant Mass setting, and the advantage is that many Catholics know it. But you're free to choose another ordinary that your organist and cantor can perform.

If you like, favorite hymns may be sung at offertory and Communion. One caveat: congregations rarely sing at weddings.

When you choose the readings for your wedding, you'll include a responsorial psalm. Typically this is sung. If you'd like the psalm to be sung, let the music director know which text you've chosen so she can provide music. Or, if you like, you can choose a musical setting yourself. This link shows all the psalm options: <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/responsorial-psalms/>

A Gospel acclamation is sung immediately before the Gospel is read. Let the music director know which Gospel you've chosen (<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/gospel-readings/>) so the appropriate acclamation can be chosen.

Solo music

Cantors for weddings are often asked to sing solo music during the prelude and/or at Communion and/or offertory—for example, the Bach-Gounod or Schubert *Ave Maria*. Talk to your cantor about the possibilities.

Here's a downloadable worksheet that will help organize your choices:

<https://holyghostknoxville.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Catholic-wedding-Mass-planner-blank.pdf>