

Listed below is the standard order of liturgy for the Wedding Mass and Wedding Ceremony (outside of Mass). Depending upon your decisions during the planning process, some details of the liturgy may vary. Consult the Director of Music or the priest or deacon officiating your wedding if you have any questions about the exact order.

WEDDING MASS

Prelude

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Processional

Bride's Entrance

Greeting

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Introduction

Questions of Intent

Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle (*optional*)

Prayer of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Communion

Devotion of the Blessed Virgin (*optional*)

Prayer after Communion

CONCLUDING RITES

Final Blessing

Recessional

WEDDING CEREMONY

Prelude

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Processional

Bride's Entrance

Greeting

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Introduction

Questions of Intent

Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle (*optional*)

Prayer of the Faithful

Nuptial Blessing

CONCLUDING RITES

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Devotion of the Blessed Virgin (*optional*)

Final Blessing

Recessional

THE WEDDING LITURGY

All musical selections can be found in the "Wedding Music Repertoire" document.

The **PRELUDE** music is performed before the wedding liturgy begins, as guests arrive and take their seats. It is recommended that the prelude last about 15 minutes. Three or four musical selections often suffice. Please note that the **MOTHER'S ENTRANCE** is considered a prelude selection.

The **MOTHERS' ENTRANCE** is the final piece of the prelude. This entrance can occur in one of two ways: (1) The mothers can make their entrance to the accompaniment of whatever music happens to be in progress; or (2) A special musical selection can be chosen for their entrance; this selection is also considered as the last prelude piece. If you choose the second way, you will need to send someone up to the organist to inform him/her when the mothers are ready. Instrumental music works best here; however, if a vocal solo is desired, *Parent's Prayer* by Greg David is appropriate.

It is customary to have two processions, one for the bridesmaids and one for the bride. However, if you have only one or two bridesmaids, it could be suitable to use one piece to cover both the bridesmaids and the bride.

For the bridesmaids' **PROCESSIONAL**, it is best to choose a soft instrumental piece. If a loud piece is chosen, guests may confuse it with the Bride's entrance.

The **BRIDE'S ENTRANCE** is the one of the most exciting parts of the wedding liturgy. In order to complement the nature of this entrance and call attention to the bride, it is best to choose a festive instrumental piece.

Following the entrance of the bride, the presider will greet the people and read the *Opening Prayer*.

The *First Reading* marks the beginning of the *Liturgy of the Word*.

The **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** immediately follows the first reading. This musical selection is sung by the cantor or organist, to which the congregation responds by singing a short recurring refrain. Selection must be made from the five psalms found on pages 4-5.

Following the Responsorial Psalm, the *Second Reading* is read.

The **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** immediately follows the second reading. The music director chooses this musical selection.

The *Gospel Reading* immediately follows the Gospel Acclamation. After the Gospel, the presider will give his *Homily*.

The *Rite of Marriage* begins with a dialogue between the presider and the couple, which includes an *Introduction* and the *Questions of Intent*. Following this dialogue is the *Consent* and the *Blessing and Exchange of Rings*.

The **LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE**, which immediately follows the exchange of rings, is an optional ritual that only involves the Bride and Groom. It takes less than a minute for the bride and groom to light their candle and return to their seats. In order to not delay the progression of the service, the organist will play a short piece of soft background music. The organist will choose this musical selection. However, it is up to the bride and groom to decide and inform the music director whether this ritual will or will not be included in the wedding liturgy.

The *Prayer of the Faithful* (or *General Intercessions*) are read after the Lighting of the Unity Candle.

The *Liturgy of the Eucharist* begins with the **PREPARATION OF GIFTS**. During this part of the liturgy, the congregation is seated and the offerings of bread and wine are brought forward to the altar. A hymn is particularly fitting during this time, but a short vocal solo or organ piece is also appropriate.

Note: Whatever piece is chosen, it must not be so long as to keep the priest waiting when he has finished his prayers at the altar. Appropriate musical selections can be found in the “Wedding Music Repertoire” document and chosen from Prelude Music, Vocal Music, or Preparation of Gifts.

The *Prayer over the Offerings* and the *Preface* mark the beginning of the *Eucharistic Prayer*.

During the *Eucharistic Prayer* four short pieces of **SERVICE MUSIC**, or the *Mass Ordinary*, including the **LAMB OF GOD**, are sung by the congregation and led by the cantor or organist. The music director chooses these four musical selections.

The *Lord’s Prayer*, or “*Our Father*,” is recited by the congregation, not sung, at St. Rose. The *Nuptial Blessing* will take place during the Lord’s Prayer.

Following the *Nuptial Blessing* and the *Lord’s Prayer*, the presider will invite the congregation to exchange a gesture of peace. During the **SIGN OF PEACE**, quiet instrumental music will be played. The organist will choose this musical selection.

The solemnity of the **COMMUNION PROCESSION** is best accompanied by songs about the Eucharist, the presence of God, or the Sacrament of Matrimony. A hymn is most appropriate. However, a vocal or instrumental solo could also be an option.

The **DEVOTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN** is an optional ritual during which the Bride and Groom walk to the statue of the Virgin Mary and place a bouquet of flowers there. This ritual is typically performed if

the bride is Catholic. The most popular musical selection for this is the *Ave Maria* by Franz Schubert or J. S. Bach/Charles Gounod. This piece can be sung or played as an instrumental solo. Other good choices are *Hail Mary*, *Gentle Woman* and the hymn *On This Day, O Beautiful Mother*.

Following the Communion Procession and the Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, the *Prayer after Communion* and the *Final Blessing* are said.

The **RECESSIONAL** closes the ceremony and accompanies the bride and groom, along with the wedding party, as they make their way down the aisle. Spirited music is best suited during this exciting, and often loud, part of the service. Note: It is not recommended that the bride and groom dismiss guests pew by pew.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 34: Taste and See – Stephen Dean (C-2)

R. Taste and see, taste and see that the Lord is good, the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise always on my lips.
The Lord shall be the glory of my soul;
the humble shall hear and be glad. *Refrain*.

Glorify the Lord with me,
together let us praise His name.

I sought the Lord: he answered me;
he set me free from all my fear. *Refrain*.

Look upon the Lord and be radiant;
hide not your face from the Lord.
He heard the cry of the poor;
He rescued them from all their woes. *Refrain*.

Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful – Jeanne Cotter (C-3)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful. Slow to anger, rich in kindness, the Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless God's name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul;
forget not all God's blessings. *Refrain*.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, full of kindness.

God is good to all creation,
full of compassion. *Refrain*.

The goodness of God is from age to age,
blessing those who choose to love.
And justice toward God's children;
on all who keep the covenant. *Refrain*.

Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful – Marty Haugen (C-3)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, the Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all my being, bless God's name;
bless the Lord,
and forget not God's benefits. *Refrain.*

God pardons all your iniquities,
and comforts your sorrows,

redeems your life from destruction
and crowns you with kindness. *Refrain.*

Merciful, merciful,
and gracious is our God;
slow to anger,
abounding in kindness. *Refrain.*

Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You – Marty Haugen (C-5)

R. Blest are those who love you, happy those who follow you, blest are those who seek you, O God.

Happy all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in God's pathway;
you will find what you long for:
the riches of our God. *Refrain.*

Your spouse shall be like a fruitful vine
in the midst of your home,

your children flourish like olive plants
rejoicing at your table. *Refrain.*

May the blessings of God be yours
all the days of your life,
may the peace and the love of God
live always in your heart. *Refrain.*

Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name – David Haas (C-6)

R. I will praise your name, my King and my God. I will praise your name, my King and my God.

I will give you glory, my God above,
and I will bless your name for ever.
Every day I will bless
and praise your name for ever. *Refrain.*

The Lord is full of grace and mercy,
who is kind and slow to anger.

God is good in every way,
and full of compassion. *Refrain.*

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
and let all the faithful bless you.
Let them speak of your might, O Lord,
the glory of your kingdom. *Refrain.*