

Prelude

There is usually about 20 minutes of prelude music prior to the start of the wedding. Prelude music can be a combination of instrumental and/or vocal selections. With adequate notice, specific requests may be honored as long as they conform to the parish and diocesan guidelines for wedding music. Often, couples choose two or three and leave the remainder to the discretion of the organist and cantor (vocalist).

Processional

The processional is played while the wedding party enters the church. You may choose from one of two options:

- A) a single piece is played for the entire wedding party, including the bride
- B) one piece is played for the wedding party, and a second piece is played for the bride

The preferred option varies based on a number of factors, particularly the size of the wedding party. While instrumental music is most commonly used for the processional, singing a hymn is also possible. The Director of Music will gladly discuss the options with you.

Psalm

The psalm is sung immediately after the first reading. Generally, you choose the psalm text from the *Together for Life* book that the parish gives you (options C1-C7), then the Director of Music and cantor select a musical setting.

Gospel Acclamation

The gospel acclamation—“Alleluia” except during Lent—is sung immediately before the Gospel. Generally, you choose the verse text from the *Together for Life* book that the parish gives you (options E1-E6), then the Director of Music and cantor select a musical setting.

Flowers to Mary statue: optional

If you choose to take flowers to the statue of Mary, you may choose a short instrumental or vocal selection that is related to Mary.

Recessional/Postlude

The recessional is played or sung as the wedding party and guests leave the church. While instrumental music is most commonly used for the recessional, singing a hymn is another option. The Director of Music will gladly discuss the options with you.