

June 21, 2018

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding at Sacred Heart. To assist in the planning of your special day, below are some guidelines. If you have questions at any time during your planning, please feel free to contact our wedding music coordinator, Mrs. Jessica Donohue at [jdonohue@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:jdonohue@parishofsacredheart.org) or by phone at 609-267-0209 ext. 307.

- ⇒ **Music Guidelines and Parameters:** The wedding liturgy is based on our Catholic Sunday liturgy. Music is a key element of our liturgy and is itself a prayer. The music you choose should encourage all in the assembly to pray and sing. It should be reflective of the reason you have gathered on this day in the presence of the Lord. **We encourage you to select hymns from our parish hymnal of music for weddings. Your marriage is a sacramental celebration and therefore certain popular love songs or other secular music and tunes may not be appropriate.**
- ⇒ **Selecting Music:** The music which needs to be selected includes -
  - ⌘ The Processional for the bridal party and the bride
  - ⌘ The Responsorial Psalm
  - ⌘ Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional – when this is included in a ceremony/Mass, music must be instrumental and approved by the music minister)
  - ⌘ Hymn for Presentation of the Gifts (not needed for a ceremony)
  - ⌘ The Sign of Peace (music is optional here)
  - ⌘ Hymn for Communion (not needed for a ceremony unless Communion is being distributed)
  - ⌘ Marian Hymn for presentation of flowers to the Blessed Mother (optional)
  - ⌘ The Recessional
- Couples should fill out a form with their wedding music selections so we can relay this information to the musicians. There are two options for completing/submitting this form:
  - ❖ **Hard Copy:** Enclosed here; includes suggested music options and can be filled out and returned to the Parish Office to the attention

of Jessica Donohue. You can either return it to the office in person or by mail to the address in the letterhead.

❖ **Electronic Form:** This form with selection options can be found on our parish web site at <https://parishofsacredheart.org/wedding-music>.

- The suggested pieces in these forms are meant to aid couples in the selection of music; please keep in mind this list is not restrictive. If you desire other music the wedding music coordinator must approve it. Any questions regarding music selections should be addressed to the wedding music coordinator before submitting your selections, as selections are subject to approval by the Pastor and coordinator.

⇒ **Musicians:** You will need a parish accompanist (piano and/or organ) for your wedding. In addition, you will need a parish cantor (vocalist) to lead the Psalm, service music and hymns. There are several vocalists and accompanists available within the parish for wedding services. If you have a special friend or relative that you may wish to sing as a guest musician at your wedding, this is possible. However, their singing must be prior to the ceremony (prelude), for meditation (after Communion), or for the Presentation to Mary. We strongly recommend attending the different Masses at Sacred Heart if you would like to have the option to request specific musicians. The parish wedding music coordinator can help with contacting parish musicians, and must approve the use of any guest musicians as well.

⇒ **Musician Stipends:** Each parish musician/cantor receives \$150.00 for his or her services. This is payable via cash or check (payable to the individual musician). The fee should be delivered to the Parish Office the Monday prior to the wedding.

Mrs. Donohue will be in touch with you via email as you begin the process of planning your wedding music. Also please be sure to provide your email to the clergy responsible for your wedding so he will be able to contact you as well. Thanks you for your time. I look forward to assisting in making your wedding day the most special and meaningful day!

God Bless

Rev. John P. Czahur, Pastor  
Sacred Heart Church

*Please contact our Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole if you have any questions or changes related to your wedding ceremony.*

*Phone 609-267-0209 ext. 301 or*

*Email [secretary@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:secretary@parishofsacredheart.org)*