

St. Christopher's Church Wedding Music Information

Weddings at St. Christopher's typically involve an Organist and a Vocalist for the music. This document offers musical suggestions and addresses frequently asked questions. Please feel free to contact [JP Bailey](#) with any questions you may have.

The parts of the wedding that call for music are listed below.

The Prelude:

- The Organist plays a 15-minute program of Catholic Hymns and light classical prelude music while guests arrive. Guests typically arrive in the last 10 minutes before the published start time of the wedding. These selections are usually chosen by JP or the organist, but if the couple has requests those will also be incorporated into the prelude music. If requested, the Vocal Soloist can also sing one or two pieces during the prelude.

Seating of the Mothers/Grandmothers (Optional):

- The mothers and grandmothers are seated just before the wedding procession begins. Couples can request a special piece for this time, or leave that up to the organist. You may use a sung Catholic Hymn or any of the instrumental organ selections that you do not use for the Bridesmaids or Bride.

The Processionals:

- The Organist plays instrumental selections for the entrance of the Bridesmaids, Maid of Honor and the Bride. You may choose to have a separate piece of music for the entrance of the Bride, or you may continue the piece of music used for the Bridesmaids.
- Procession of Bridesmaids and/or Bride ([Trumpet Tune](#), [Trumpet Voluntary](#), [Canon in D](#), [Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring](#), [Prelude No. 1 In C](#), [Air on the G String](#), [Handel's Water Music](#), [Handel's Royal Fireworks Suite](#), [Vivaldi's Four Seasons - Autumn](#), [Vivaldi's Four Seasons - Spring](#), [Ode to Joy](#), [Here Comes the Bride](#))

Glory to God (musical suggestions below*)

The Liturgy of the Word:

- After the First Reading the Responsorial Psalm will be sung by the Cantor with the guests singing the refrain of the Psalm. Please choose the Psalm that you like from the "Together For Life" book. JP will choose the music setting that matches the text presented in the book.
- The Gospel Acclamation is sung by all after the Second Reading. You may choose the verse from the "Together For Life" book or JP can pick the verse. We typically sing [Celtic Alleluia](#) for weddings, but you may choose to use another setting of the Gospel Acclamation.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist (for Weddings within Mass):

- During the Preparation of the Gifts a hymn can be sung by all, the vocalist can sing a solo piece of music, or an instrumental selection can be played by the organist. [Alleluia Love is Alive](#), [Rain Down](#), [10,000 Reasons](#), [Prayer of St. Francis](#), [Ave Maria](#) (if not used in another place in the Mass)
- During the Eucharistic Prayers for weddings within a Mass all members of the assembly will sing the Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Amen, and the Lamb of God (musical settings below*).
- During the Distribution and the Reception of Holy Communion (for Weddings within Mass) a hymn will be sung. [I Am The Bread of Life](#), [Miracle of Grace](#), [Taste and See](#), [One Love Released](#), [Panis Angelicus](#), [The Supper of the Lord](#), [Ubi Caritas](#)
- Before the end of the wedding (following Communion if within Mass) Brides can place a bouquet of flowers beneath the statue of Mary. The [Ave Maria](#) can be sung. You may also choose to have the Ave Maria sung as a meditation after Communion.
- The Recessional: After the final blessing and presentation of the couple, the Wedding Party exits the church. Organ Music is played during this time. Recorded music is not permitted. The [Mendelssohn Wedding March](#) is a common choice for this moment, but you are free to choose any of the Processional music suggestions or a Catholic Hymn.

**For the singing of the Glory to God, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen, and Lamb of God you may pick from these options: [Mass of Creation](#), [Mass of Renewal](#), [Mass of Christ the Savior](#), [Mass of Spirit and Grace](#). JP will provide more options if needed.*

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I find a vocalist and an organist?

JP (the Parish Music Coordinator) is also the primary organist for the parish. There are several experienced organists who play and several experienced vocalists who sing for weddings here at St. Christopher's Church. JP will coordinate the vocalist and organist for your wedding.

Can we have an Organist or Soloist from another church, or a family member provide the music for our wedding?

Yes, you may have your musician play for your wedding. You will need to consult with JP to coordinate rehearsal times for the musicians and to plan the Liturgy. He will verify that your music selections meet the criteria for appropriate music in a Catholic wedding. The fee for the music coordinator will still apply.

We want to hire a String Trio, String Quartet, Harpist, Trumpet player, etc. ... do you allow these?

Yes, however, please remember that you will be required to consult with JP to verify that your music selections meet the criteria for appropriate music in a Catholic wedding and to determine what parts of the mass will be played/sung by whom. The fee for the music coordinator will still apply.

What are fees for Wedding Music at St. Christopher's? Also, to whom and when do we pay the fees?

JP Bailey, Coordinator of Music (jbailey@stchristopherski.org) should be contacted by the couple six months prior to the wedding date regarding appropriate music arrangements. Scheduling of the church does not automatically include the musician's services.

Fees:

\$50 for Music Coordination

\$200 for Organist

\$200 for Vocalist

JP will provide the names of the musicians as soon as you need them for your program. Fees must be brought or mailed to the Parish Office no later than TWO MONTHS prior to your wedding. The fees should be written to the named musician in separate payments. The fees for music are separate from the fees paid to the church.

[JP Bailey](#)

St. Christopher's Church

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