

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

Wedding Music Guidelines

It is our hope that these guidelines will be of help in planning your wedding music. Music Director Susan DePalma will serve as principal musician for all weddings.

Cantor

The cantor has the responsibility of leading the congregation in sung prayer. The cantors from our parish are highly trained and familiar with the standard musical repertoire of wedding liturgies within the Catholic Church. It is for that reason that we highly recommend using one of our cantors to sing at your wedding. Cantors may be heard at weekend liturgies. Normally, the Music Director selects the cantor, but the couple may request a particular cantor.

Guest Cantors must be experienced cantors in the Roman Catholic Church.

Please note: If you are considering hiring your own vocalist, they must be musically competent and approved by the Music Director in advance. Guest singers will be limited to one or two pieces with the remainder of the ceremony sung by one of our professional cantors. If a rehearsal is needed, a fee will apply.

Instrumentalists

Other instrumentalists, (trumpet, etc.) may be hired to enhance your wedding liturgy with the approval of the Music Director. If individual instrumentalists are desired, the Music Director will be happy to secure their services for you. Please keep in mind, the fees for these musicians will be an added expense.

Music for your Wedding

Prelude

Prior to the beginning of the liturgy, there is time to have a Prelude played or sung while guests are being seated.

Processional

The Processional is played by the organist alone or with the addition of other instruments such as a trumpet. You may choose one piece for the processional for the bride alone or you may choose to have two processionals: One for a sizable bridal party and one for the bride.

Responsorial Psalm

During the Responsorial Psalm which follows the first reading, the cantor will sing the psalm. After the second reading and before the Gospel, the cantor will sing the Alleluia. During the season of Lent, alleluias are omitted from the Catholic liturgies and therefore another acclamation will be sung.

Unity Candle

If you decide to have a Unity Candle, a short meditation may be sung by the cantor.

Communion

If you are planning a full Mass which includes Communion, you will need to select a piece to be sung. This can include a song that is a sign of community and be sung by the congregation.

Meditation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Music during this moment is usually a setting of the "Ave Maria" or other appropriate hymn to Mary.

Recessional

The wedding Recessional is usually the liturgy's most festive and joyous of musical expressions and concludes the ceremony.

The sound clips that are found on the website are designed to help you in your selections. If you have other ideas for music or questions, please bring them to your appointment and may God Bless you.

In Him,
Susan DePalma
Director of Music Ministry
musicministry@goodcounsel.org
973.271.9353