



GUIDELINES
FOR
WEDDING
PREPARATION

St. Mary Catholic Parish
Tomahawk, Wisconsin

Introduction

Congratulations on your engagement! Your wedding and marriage are important to you, your family, and your parish family – you are a witness to the enduring love of God.

We offer these guidelines to assist you in the preparation of your wedding at St. Mary's. Many of your questions should be answered with this document, but an essential part of your preparation includes a meeting with the pastor and then with the Director of Music and Liturgy, whose goal is to help you plan a wedding that reflects your style, musical taste, and scriptural preferences. The last page of this document is a page for you to sign and return to the pastor's office, indicating that you have read and understand these guidelines. Your wedding is a joyful occasion, and a clear understanding of expectations and procedures at this time will help to prevent the stress of future misunderstandings.

The Time and Place

You will initially meet with the pastor to discuss some important issues and to complete the necessary paperwork. If you are not a registered parishioner of St. Mary's or St. Francis, you will need to provide a letter from your pastor granting permission to be married here. (This is for Catholics only.) Your wedding date cannot be reserved until you have personally contacted the pastor of St. Mary's.

Only one wedding Mass per day is permitted; any other weddings will be services that do not include Mass. On Saturdays, a wedding Mass will not be scheduled after 2:00 p.m. Weddings can also take place during any regularly scheduled weekend Mass, except on those days which are specifically prohibited, namely: Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season; solemnities, holy days, All Souls Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and the Sacred Triduum. Services without a Mass have greater flexibility of times, depending upon the date and the presider.

At the initial meeting, you will be asked to attend a pre-marriage seminar, and you will receive information about seminars that are scheduled in our diocese. You will also schedule an appointment to complete the FOCUS, which is a communication tool; then you will meet with a facilitating couple to discuss your responses to the FOCUS.

Clergy

In order to be validly married, a baptized Catholic must proclaim his/her vows before a priest or deacon and two witnesses.

Fees

When considering the cost of the many details of your wedding celebration, please consider your gift to God as equally important. While the Sacrament of Marriage is priceless, the cost of maintaining the church buildings is significant. A donation to the parish of \$100 (if you are a

member of the parish) or \$200 (non-parishioners) is requested at the time that you reserve your wedding date. In addition, a cleaning deposit fee of \$50 is required, which will be refunded to you (from the parish office during normal business hours), upon your satisfactory clean-up of the church facilities. The customary stipend for the presider (priest or deacon) is \$100. Sacraments are never denied to anyone because of financial hardship—please speak with the pastor if that is your circumstance. While the Director of Music is happy to provide the names of wedding musicians in the area, it is your responsibility to contact them and consult with them about their fees and terms of payment. Average local fees for accompanists or singers range from \$100-150, including attendance at the rehearsal. Some musicians ask that you sign an advance contract of mutual understanding of the services to be provided. Because wedding days are so busy, it is suggested that the fees for the presider and musicians be paid in advance or no later than the rehearsal. (Wedding musicians often are booked a year or more in advance—you should contact them as soon as possible.) In summary, your wedding fee is \$150 (\$250 for non-parishioners) for the use of church (of which \$50 is refundable), plus \$100 for the presider, plus the additional fee for your musician(s).

The Marriage Rite

The Church's *Rite of Marriage* includes options which address particular pastoral situations; i.e. the marriage of two Catholics, or the marriage of a Catholic and a member of another Christian community. A wedding ceremony (liturgy) outside of Mass might be more comfortable and familiar to non-Catholic families and guests. However, if a decision is made to celebrate marriage within a Mass, the reception of Holy Communion would need to be explained. Since the Eucharist is the highest expression of Catholic unity, non-Catholic participants would not receive Communion, but may receive a blessing.

A Worship Aid

Some couples may wish to prepare a worship aid (program) for their guests. To assist you in planning your liturgy and the layout of your program, the outlines for the two forms of liturgy (with or without Mass) are included in this guide. Programs may vary in detail, but should include at least the order of service, the liturgical ministers, and names of the wedding party. Reference numbers for songs in the parish hymnals should also be included. Composers' names should be included with the song titles. If music is printed in the program, necessary copyright permissions must be secured and included. Scripture texts are not printed in their entirety; merely print the biblical citation. A personal message from the couple can also be added, if you choose. The Director of Music will assist you with any questions regarding layout of your worship aid.

The Role of the Assembly

Since your family and friends have been invited to witness your commitment to each other, to

pray with you and for you, and to offer love and support, their involvement in this joyful liturgy is essential. The Church asks that all liturgical celebrations be planned in ways that involve the participation of everyone present. Therefore, hymns and acclamations that you choose should encourage this participation. While a soloist may perform a worthwhile role during parts of the liturgy, every member of the assembly has a vital role, by responding to prayers and singing hymns, the Responsorial Psalm, and Gospel Acclamation.

Flash Photography

Flash photography is prohibited during the service, because it is a significant distraction in the celebration of the sacrament. (This notice should be included in your worship aid.) Professional photographers may consult with the presider to discuss when flash may be necessary for them. While neither the procession nor other parts of the service can be stopped for the setup of a “pose”, we will work with them to ensure as many meaningful pictures as possible. Video-taping is permitted, but the presider must be consulted in advance, to determine the best vantage point from which video-taping is allowed.

Decorations

You may use, with permission, any decorations which the church has, at no extra cost (i.e. flower stands). You are responsible, however, for replacement if broken, and for setting them up and taking them down. To avoid disappointment, please consult with the Director of Music and Liturgy before you order flowers or purchase other decorations. All floral arrangements placed in the sanctuary must be real flowers or live plants. Flowers that are worn or carried by the wedding party may be artificial. No decorations are allowed on top of the altar. Balloons are prohibited in the church. No nails, tacks, tape or adhesive of any kind may be used to attach decorations to the pews. Plastic holders which do not damage the finish of the pews are allowed, for hanging bows, etc., on the ends of pews. Please contact the parish office or the Director of Music and Liturgy to know when the church will be available for you to set up your decorations. Rice, bird seed, etc. may not be used. Not only is it a liability risk for people who may slip and fall on it, but also an extra responsibility of clean-up.

Clean Up

Since the church does not customarily employ a custodian for weddings, you are responsible to clean up after the service, including flower delivery containers, programs and tissue boxes from the pews, removal of decorations, etc., and any debris in the parking lot. Any rooms that are used for dressing or gathering are to be cleaned up, as well, with all waste materials placed in the appropriate receptacles. You may wish to designate a family member or friend to assume this responsibility. If clean-up is not properly done, a custodian will be hired and you will forfeit the \$50 cleaning deposit which you have paid.

Rehearsal

Your rehearsal will be determined by you and the presider, with confirmation from the parish office that your requested time is available. The rehearsal will begin promptly, and the wedding party should arrive on time. Bring your marriage license with you. Most of your decisions regarding the ceremony should be made prior to the rehearsal. If you ask family members or friends to serve as readers of scripture or intercessions during the ceremony, they should be present to rehearse their reading using the microphone. Respect for the church should be shown by appropriate dress: no hats for men (i.e. baseball caps), shorts, beverages or snacks. The use of alcohol is prohibited on all parish property, at all times, including the church, rest rooms, Corpus Christi Center, and parking lots. Out of respectful reverence for the church and the sacred nature of the wedding ceremony, alcohol consumption is strongly discouraged prior to the rehearsal or the wedding. Any individual who exhibits inappropriate behavior, at the presider's discretion, will be prohibited from participation in the rehearsal and/or the wedding.

Music

The following pages contain information to help you to select the music for your wedding. Music is a powerful and beautiful way to help express your love and your acknowledgement of the presence of God in your union. Mindful of the sacramental nature of marriage, there are guidelines regarding what music may or may not be used in a wedding ceremony. The music must be appropriate for use in church, in a liturgical setting. The suitability of texts sung at your wedding is an important consideration. Popular love songs often stress the couple only and exclude God and the Church community. While they may be desirable choices for your reception, they often overlook God's ongoing role in Christian marriage. Songs which merely include or imply the name of God may not necessarily be appropriate. Suitable song texts will speak explicitly of the Christian dimension of love, or express trust in, thanksgiving to, or praise to God. Good wedding music also acknowledges the power of the prayer of the community.

No taped or pre-recorded music may be used during the service. You are financially responsible to provide legal copies of any music which must be obtained for your musicians. For the comfort level of both you and the musicians, who need adequate time for practice, it is best to select your music as far in advance as possible; all musical selections are subject to the approval of the Director of Music. The following pages include some suggestions for your consideration.



PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

While not absolutely necessary, there is a trend toward separate music for the attendants and for the bride. Keep in mind that within the course of any piece, the volume level could be increased appropriately to announce the entrance of the bride. Several of the following works are also available for organ and brass or organ and trumpet(s). Some processionals may also be suitable as recessionals.

Sample Processionals:

Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)	Attr. H Purcell / J. Clarke
Rigaudon	André Campra
Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring	J.S. Bach
Trumpet Tune*	David N. Johnson
Fanfare*	Gordon Jacob
Grand Choeur Dialogue*	Eugene Gigout
Air from Water Music	G.F. Handel
*might also be suitable as a recessional	

OPENING HYMN

After the wedding party is in place, the use of an opening hymn, sung by the congregation, is often a good way to create unity and calm nerves. The parish hymnal is also an excellent source to explore song titles which have special significance to you, as a couple.

Sample Opening Hymns: (Please note, all upper case letters refer to hymn tunes, upper and lower case letters refer to composers.)

Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	HYFRYDOL
God is Love	David Haas
Love Divine All Loves Excelling	HYFRYDOL
For the Beauty of the Earth	DIX
All Creatures of Our God and King	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow	OLD 100TH
God Whose Giving Knows No Ending	RUSTINGTON
Praise to the Lord	LOBE DEN HERREN
God, Who Created Hearts to Love	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
When Love Is Found	Brian Wren
The Greatest Gift	James V. Marchionda, OP
Wherever You Go	Gregory Norbet, OSB

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lectionary – a book which contains all the Scripture readings used at Mass – has a wonderful assortment of readings for wedding liturgies. They may be found in nos. 801-805. The readings are listed below. Once you have made your selections, choosing a musical setting for the psalm and the gospel acclamation will be simple. Hymns, too, should complement the readings. (The parish will also provide you with a book containing the texts of the options.)

Readings:

Old Testament - Lectionary #801

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

Tobit 7:6-14

Tobit 8:4b-8

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

New Testament - Lectionary #802

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Romans 12:1-2, 9-19 or Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:8a

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 or Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

1 Peter 3:1-9

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-12

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

The Responsorial Psalm

The Responsorial Psalm immediately follows the First Reading. Since a psalm is a song, it is normally sung; this is a role that is filled by your soloist, or cantor. Your music minister may suggest various settings for the psalms. Please note: the psalm is from Scripture and may not be replaced by a “song”.

Responsorial Psalm - Lectionary #803

Psalm 33: 12 and 18, 20-21, 22

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

I will bless the Lord at all times.

OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 103:1-2, 8 and 13, 17-18a

The Lord is kind and merciful.

OR The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.

Psalm 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7b-8, 9

Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's command. OR Alleluia.

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Blessed are those who fear the Lord

OR See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Psalm 145:8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18

The Lord is compassionate toward all his works.

Psalm 148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13a, 13c-14a

Let all praise the name of the Lord. OR Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This acclamation is always sung. The Director of Music may suggest various settings. The verse for the acclamation usually relates to the gospel.

Gospel – Lectionary #805

Matthew 5:1-12a

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29, (or 7:21, 24-25)

Matthew 19:3-6

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-12

John 15:12-16

John 17:20-26 (or 17:20-23)

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

The Vows / The Declaration of Consent

The ministers of the sacrament are the bride and groom, and this reality is expressed as the vows are proclaimed. A form of the approved vows contained in the *Rite of Marriage* should be used. The options for the vows are also included in the book which you are given to help you to prepare. The options include recitation of the vow or the response "I do" when asked questions.

The Unity Candle and Other Options

Though it has been popular in many churches in the United States, the unity candle (or sand--another other recent trend) is a commercial product that is not part of the Catholic marriage rite. The real symbols of the sacrament are the bride and groom themselves. The candle or sand is not required in the wedding ceremony—please discuss that option at the time of your consultation with the Director of Music and Liturgy. If you do choose to use that option, instrumental music may be played, or an appropriate song may be sung at this time.

The presentation of a bouquet to an image of the Blessed Mother is an expression of personal devotion and is not usually a part of in public worship. This optional devotion may occur near the end of the liturgy, after the Final Blessing. If your wedding ceremony will take place outside of Mass, the liturgy continues with the Concluding Rite, which includes the Lord's Prayer, the Blessing, and Recessional.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

If your marriage takes place within Mass, the liturgy then continues with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. You may invite family or friends to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. Instrumental music may be played or a hymn can be sung. The time required for this rite is brief, so you might choose a piece of appropriate length, from the following or the hymnal:

Sample Presentation Hymns:

A Nuptial Blessing	Joncas
God, in the Planning	SLANE
How Happy You Who Fear the Lord	LAND OF REST
In Love We Choose to Live	Jeanne Cotter
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring Bach	WERDE MUNTER
Like Olive Branches	Deiss
Lives Brought Together	Schutte
Lord of All Hopefulness	SLANE
Love is the Sunlight	BUNESSAN; SHADE
Love Which Never Ends	Sands
Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels	Joncas
The Gift of Love	Hopson
The Greatest Gift	Marchionda
These Two Now Joined	Schaffer
Ubi Caritas (Where love is, there is God)	Taizé; chant
We Will Serve the Lord Haas	Cooney
Where Charity and Love Prevail	CHRISTIAN LOVE
Where There is Love	Haas
Where Love is Found	O WALY WALY
Wherever You Go	Norbert

Acclamations during the Eucharistic Prayer

The parish musician will know the settings with which the congregation is most familiar. Please rely on that experience, especially since musical settings of the Mass have recently changed.

Nuptial Blessing

The Nuptial Blessing is recited after the Lord's Prayer or during the Concluding Rite.

Communion Hymn

While the congregation processes to Communion, a song is sung, as a sign of unity. The singing begins when the priest partakes of the Eucharist until the last person receives. Some suggestions for Communion hymns are listed below:

Sample Communion Songs:

Blest Are They	Haas
Bread of Life	Farrell
Bread for the World	Farrell
Come to the Banquet	Chepponis
Come and Eat This Living Bread	ADORO TE DEVOTE
Gift of Finest Wheat	BICENTENNIAL
I Received the Living God	LIVING GOD
In Remembrance of You	Tate
Let us Be Bread	Porter
Now in This Banquet	Haugen
One Communion of Love	Marchionda
One Bread, One Body	Foley
Take and Eat	Joncas
Taste and See	(various)
Ubi Caritas	(various)
We Know and Believe	Glover

THE CONCLUDING RITE

The Concluding Rite includes a Greeting, Dismissal, and Recessional music. Samples of closing hymns and instrumental recessionals are given below:

Sample Closing Hymns:

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ODE TO JOY
Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET
Let All Things Now Living ASH GROVE
Love is the Sunlight BUNNESAN
Hear Us Now, O God Our Maker HYFRYDOL

Sample Instrumental Recessionals:

Crown Imperial	William Walton
Entracte to Act III of Saul	G.F. Handel
Fanfare Jean-Joseph	Mouret
Finale from Symphony #6	Charles Marie Widor
Finale from Symphony #1	Louis Vierne
Hornpipe from Water Music	G.F. Handel
Sinfonia to Cantata #29	J.S. Bach
Toccata in G	Théodore Dubois
Toccata from Symphony #5	Charles Marie Widor
Toccata in Seven	John Rutter
Trumpet Voluntary	Henry Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary	John Stanley
Trumpet Tune #1	Aaron David Miller

All music suggestions above are provided as a starting point in planning music. These lists are not exhaustive, but only provide examples of the principles of appropriate and tasteful music for wedding liturgy. Wedding music samples can be heard on CD's (although recordings of orchestral arrangements will not sound the same in a church with organ or piano), and many samples can be heard through websites on the internet. Having some ideas of music that you have considered, prior to your appointment with the Director of Music, will be helpful.

CONCLUSION

This booklet has been designed to make preparing your wedding liturgy an enjoyable and enriching experience. It has offered sample music, rationale for its proper selection, and brief liturgical explanations. Your presider and Director of Music are happy to work closely with you to answer any questions and assist you in this process. May your wedding celebration give praise to God, sanctify your day, and be a wonderful beginning of a long and happy marriage.

Acknowledgement of
Guidelines for Wedding Preparation
St. Mary Catholic Parish

I (we) have received and acknowledge the guidelines and wedding preparation policy of St. Mary Parish, and have selected the following date and time for our wedding liturgy:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Presider: _____

Contact Information (only one is necessary):

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Payment of fees: ___ \$100 use of church for parishioner, or
 ___ \$200 use of church for non-parishioner
 ___ \$50 cleaning fee deposit (refundable after wedding)
 ___ Total

Date of Signature: _____