

# St. Augustine Wedding Music Guidelines

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bride:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Details:** Music selections for the wedding ceremony or Mass will be coordinated with the Director of Music. Every wedding needs an organist/pianist and at least one vocalist, unless a special arrangement (i.e. a string quartet) has been agreed upon with the Director of Music. Though outside organists are occasionally permitted to play, the Director of Music is given first choice to play for all weddings at St. Augustine. Requests for additional instrumentalists will be accommodated based on available resources.

Use the Wedding Music Planning Document provided on page six of this document as a guide to ensure that each appropriate part of the Mass is adequately filled with suitable music.

Pages three to five are the Guidelines put forth by the Archdiocese concerning Wedding Music. Please read through it carefully, as it is very informative.

Music included on the Wedding Music Selections Spreadsheet (separate document) has been previously vetted and deemed acceptable for Roman Catholic Weddings at St. Augustine. Music that is not included in the Wedding Music Selections Spreadsheet must be approved by the Director of Music and may be subject to approval by the Priest. Please remember, just because a song mentions "God" or "Jesus" does not automatically ensure its appropriateness for a Roman Catholic Wedding.

You are expected to meet with the Director of Music to discuss the music for your wedding. Come prepared; come with some ideas from the Wedding Music Selections Spreadsheet: it can be overwhelming to plan all of the music necessary for a Catholic Wedding in one sitting!

Music selections should be finalized no later than two months prior to the wedding.

In the unlikely event of a condition that prevents a musician from performing for the scheduled event, an appropriate professional substitute will be arranged for by the Director of Music.

**Vocalists:** You will need to hire a vocalist to sing at your wedding. Though we can accommodate most any vocalist, it is suggested that a Preferred Vocalist be contracted for your wedding. Preferred Vocalists are well-trained and extremely competent singers that work cohesively with the Director of Music. Please note, vocalists are paid separately from the Director of Music.

- Sara (Lefeld) Monath - 419-852-0727  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA3vpr9yxn4>
- Abby Brididoi - 614-203-9553  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGIWdRaVkPs>
- Deb Goettemoeller - 419-852-1945

**Fees:** The fee for the Director of Music is included in your \$450 donation the church. Included in this fee is one meeting between you and the Director of Music, one rehearsal with the vocalist(s), and the music on the day of the wedding – including a prelude and postlude.

Vocalists that are contracted to sing for your wedding are paid separately from the Director of Music.

Any piece that is not on the Wedding Music Selection Spreadsheet could potentially need to be purchased and will be assessed to you. A copy of purchased music will be given to you upon request.

**Contact:** If you have questions, feel free to email Jared Post, the Director of Music, at [musicstaugie@gmail.com](mailto:musicstaugie@gmail.com) or call at 419-628-2614.

## Archdiocese of Cincinnati Wedding Music Guidelines (2016)

The Role of Music in the Wedding Liturgy Music plays a very important part in a wedding, as it does in every liturgy. Its primary role is to help members of the assembly join themselves with the action of Christ and to express their faith. Singing a text expresses a dimension of meaning and feeling that spoken words alone cannot. Music has been an integral part of the liturgy since the early days of the Church – specifically, singing. In fact, the human voice is considered the primary musical instrument for the liturgy. In singing the liturgy, the human person joins his or her voice with the voice of Christ to offer a song of praise to God the Father. In the liturgy, we encounter Christ in symbols, and can recognize the presence of Christ when the Church prays and sings. So, the musical choices you make can really have an impact on the way the assembly celebrates at your wedding liturgy.

With respect to the parts of the ceremony that require singing, the outline for the wedding liturgy follows very closely the order of the Mass. There are opportunities for the assembly to sing hymns and songs; to sing the refrain of the Responsorial Psalm; and to sing acclamations (the Alleluia before the Gospel; acclamations during the Eucharistic Prayer, if your wedding takes place during Mass). The structure of our liturgy requires particular kinds of music at these particular times: the text, or the form, or length of the piece, for example.

While the Church welcomes a variety of styles of music, at the same time it calls us to consider several criteria for any piece of music we choose for any liturgy we celebrate. Does it meet the requirements of that particular moment in the liturgy, is it appropriate for the ritual? Will it enable this particular group of people assembled this day, in this place for your wedding to express the faith of the Church? Does it open their hearts to the mystery being celebrated on this occasion? Is it of good musical quality, so that it is worthy of expressing the mystery of God's love that we celebrate in this sacrament? Or, is it trite or a musical cliché?

In the wedding liturgy, we sing about love – not a love initiated between two human beings alone, but a love that has Christ at the center, one that will deepen and grow through the years to become a sign for the world of the love God has for God's people. Hymns and songs that express this love rooted in Christ are much more appropriate for the liturgy. Secular, popular music that focuses only on the human aspect of relationships is inappropriate. The music at your wedding – chosen with all of this in mind – will express not only the love you share as a couple, but will enable you to proclaim to the Church and to your guests how your marriage will be a sign of the presence of Christ for the world.

**Prelude music** played or sung while your guests are gathering in the church can help set the tone for the sacred nature of the celebration. There is a natural transition that begins long before we arrive at the church building for a liturgy: our preparation at home, our journey to the church, our arrival at the doors – all of this is part of our gathering to celebrate. The prelude music can help your guests transition from the world outside the church doors and begin to focus on the sacred – to focus on the wedding ceremony which takes place in the context of liturgical prayer. With this in mind, music from the sacred repertoire is appropriate for prelude music.

The **Entrance Hymn** can accompany the procession of the ministers and bridal party at the beginning of the liturgy, other-wise it is sung after the procession has concluded. In either case, the assembly joins in the singing of the hymn. Singing together at the beginning of the liturgy can be a very welcoming thing to do. It invites your guests to unite their minds and hearts as they join their voices in one song. This is especially effective in cases where the bride and groom come from two different faith communities. A hymn that is familiar or sung in a wide range of churches will serve to make guests feel comfortable and invite them to participate fully in the celebration. In addition, the Gloria is sung at weddings within Mass.

You will choose scripture readings to be proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word. Of equal importance is the **Responsorial Psalm**, which fosters meditation on the Word of God that we hear proclaimed. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony offers several psalm texts especially appropriate for the wedding liturgy. There are many different musical settings of the psalms and they represent a wide variety of styles.

Just as we do at any liturgy, we stand and sing our “**Alleluia**” before the proclamation of the Gospel. Choosing a setting of this that is familiar is important to encourage the singing of the assembly. The rite provides a sung or spoken acclamation after the vows, as well as singing a hymn or canticle of praise after the Blessing and Giving of Rings. The parish musician will assist in making these musical choices.

If your wedding is celebrated in the context of Mass, there will be a procession with the gifts of bread and wine which can be accompanied with a song or instrumental music. This song should end as the presider finishes preparing the cups on the altar. Music should be chosen with this in mind. Also, if you are celebrating in the context of Mass, there will be a Eucharistic Prayer which includes acclamations to be sung by the assembly. These are the most important pieces of music sung in any liturgy because they are our way of externally participating in this great Christian prayer of thanksgiving. Even if no particular attention is paid to any other pieces of music for your wedding, the Church asks us to make sure these acclamations are able to be sung by everyone. The musical setting of the **Holy, Holy, Holy, Mystery of Faith** and **Amen** should be chosen with the parish musician.

The Rite of Peace follows our praying the Lord's Prayer together. In the gestures we exchange, we pray for peace and unity among ourselves and the whole human family. We express our communion before receiving the Sacrament of Communion. This is a simple gesture that does not require any ritual music. Since the **Sign of Peace** should not unduly prolong the liturgy, adding music to the ritual at this point is not appropriate. Following the Sign of Peace, the breaking of the bread is accompanied by the Lamb of God.

The **Communion Song** enables us to express with our voices the union that we share in the Body of Christ. In selecting a Communion song, we may sing not only about the liturgical action of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, but may include songs that express the joy, wonder, unity, gratitude and praise we know through our union with the God who loves us and gives us all gifts.

Most couples choose to have an instrumental piece for the **recessional** music, and there are many fine pieces that can serve the liturgy in this way. Some choose to have the assembly sing together while the wedding party processes out of the church. If you choose to have your assembly sing for this part of the liturgy, hymns and songs that are especially effective are those that speak of your marriage as a witness of the love you share in Christ – praying that your union will be salt and light for the world.

Providing a **printed program** with the music or references to the hymn numbers for the gathered assembly will enable them to participate in the liturgy more fully and consciously. This is also a gesture of hospitality for your guests. It is important to know that if music is printed in the program, appropriate copyright permission will need to be obtained. The parish musician can assist you with this.

# St. Augustine Wedding Music Planning Form

Name of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_ Start of Mass: \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Bridesmaids: \_\_\_ Ring Bearer: \_\_\_ Flower Girl: \_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mass or Ceremony?

Vocalist: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocalist: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Prelude Music:            1) \_\_\_\_\_  
                                     2) \_\_\_\_\_  
                                     3) \_\_\_\_\_  
                                     4) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid's Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

Gathering Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Gloria: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Alleluia: \_\_\_\_\_

Unity Candle: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of the Gifts: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Songs:        1) \_\_\_\_\_

                                     2) \_\_\_\_\_

Devotion to the B.V. Mary: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_