

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding at the Church of Saint Mary. The music ministry is at your service to help you plan a liturgy that will be beautiful and meaningful to you and your families.

Before your initial wedding consultation, I want to provide you with several FAQs and topics to think about to make the planning and consultation process go smoothly and quickly (I know how precious your planning time is!).

Some basic questions to consider include:

1. Is my marriage going to take place within celebration of the Mass (Eucharist)? If you answer *yes* you will need to secure the services of a vocalist who has experience with Catholic liturgy to serve as cantor (and soloist if you desire). If you answer *no* you may still choose to have vocal music at your wedding. In either case, I can assist you in selecting an appropriate person.
2. Do I want any other musicians besides the organist? The addition of a string quartet, trumpet(s), flute or other instruments can add beauty to your service. I can also help secure extra musicians as needed (at their normal professional rates).

Other questions asked on a regular basis include:

1. Can I have pre-recorded music at my wedding? St. Mary's does not allow pre-recorded music of any kind within any liturgical celebration.
2. Is it possible for me to use the "traditional" wedding marches? Some churches prohibit the use of the wedding marches by Richard Wagner and Felix Mendelssohn; however, you may choose either or both for your wedding liturgy at St. Mary's.
3. What kind of vocal music can be sung at my wedding? Since the wedding liturgy is held within a sacred context, the music chosen must reflect that context. The style of the music (i.e. country, pop, classical) is your choice; however the *lyrics of any song used within the liturgy must reflect some aspect of God's role in the love and union of the bride and groom.* Any other music (secular) is not allowed in the liturgy/ceremony.
4. How much will the musician's fees be? The professional fee for the Organist/Director of Music is \$200 that includes one consultation and one

rehearsal with a singer (or cantor) unfamiliar with the Church of Saint Mary. Several of our parish cantors have extensive background and experience in weddings and liturgy, and are available for a \$150 fee.

5. When do I need to pay my fees? All musician fees must be paid at least one week prior to the wedding.
6. Do the musicians attend the rehearsal? Since the presiding priest for the wedding conducts the rehearsal, musicians do not attend.
7. What kinds of things should I do before my music consultation? You should begin making lists of titles you are considering for things such as the processional and recessional marches (music that the wedding party enters and exits the church by). Other musical choices for your consideration include the Psalm (which can be read or sung if the wedding takes place outside of mass), Mass parts (if Mass is celebrated) and any other vocal music that might be placed before or during the service.
8. How many songs are necessary or appropriate? For celebration of Mass, vocal music can be placed before mass begins, at the seating of the parents, at the Preparation of the Gifts and at distribution of Holy Communion. For weddings outside the celebration of Mass, vocal music can be placed before the service and at the seating of the parents. If a unity candle is being used in either type of celebration, a short song may be utilized.

You may contact me at (918) 749-2561, x120, to make an appointment for your wedding consultation. I am normally available throughout the week and on Saturday morning. I've also included a worksheet to help you in the planning process. Please bring it with you to your consultation.

Again, congratulations on your upcoming wedding. I look forward to working with you!

Regards,

Walter J. Stout, M.M.  
Organist and Director of Music  
Church of Saint Mary

# Wedding Music Worksheet

Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day/night/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day/night/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Marian Chapel? \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Priest \_\_\_\_\_

Will Mass be celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you incorporating a unity candle? \_\_\_\_\_

How many attendants will be in the party? \_\_\_\_\_

How many children? (Junior bridesmaids, groomsmen, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

How many parents/relatives seated before the ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

How many guests are you expecting? (approximately) \_\_\_\_\_

Musicians you have invited to participate:

(Other than music director; please include contact information)

\_\_\_\_\_

Possible music for:

Processional March (es) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recessional March \_\_\_\_\_

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

(You may suggest Psalm texts in the *Together for Life* book provided by our priests).

Other Vocal Music \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Questions/Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_