

MUSIC PREPARATIONS

In order to make your wedding liturgy a true reflection of your love and commitment, you are invited to participate in the selection of music for your wedding. For this purpose you will meet with Mira Sojka-Topor, the Music Director of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, to familiarize you with the various ways in which music can be used at your wedding. You should contact Mira at musicmin@stcyril.org or 630-257-2776 approximately three months before the date of the wedding to schedule this appointment.

Organist/Pianist/Vocalist

The usual organist/pianist/vocalist for all weddings is the parish Music Director, Mira Sojka-Topor. If desired, the use of additional singers, instrumentalists and musicians can also be arranged through the parish Music Director.

Musicians from outside the Parish

If a couple plans to hire outside musicians for either a Polish or English wedding, they need to inform our Music Director, Mira Sojka-Topor, who will contact them and provide them with necessary information about our parish and make sure things are set up for the day of the wedding.

Bench Fee

Please note that the Music Director stipend for a wedding here at SS. Cyril & Methodius is considered part of their salary and income. Therefore, if an engaged couple decides to bring in their own organist to play for their wedding, a \$100.00 bench fee is required for our Music Director.

Musical Selections

At the time of your meeting to discuss music, the parish Music Director will provide you

with options of music that you may choose for your ceremony and will play samples for you on the organ/piano. The parish Music Director is also open to specific requests that you might have, however at times a request for a particular piece of music cannot be

honored. For example, secular music is often not appropriate at a wedding liturgy. This is not to imply that the music is bad, simply that it is not related to what is being celebrated in the church service. It may be very appropriate in another part of the total wedding celebration, such as at the reception.

Vocal and Instrumental Selection

When planning the wedding music, consideration should be given to creating a balance of instrumental and sung music, adjusting to the overall flow of the liturgy and the length of specific parts of the liturgy, and prudently using the musical resources available. The parish Music Director will assist you in creating this balance.

Congregational Participation

The congregation assembled for your wedding celebration is present to support you with its participation in prayer at your celebration. One goal of planning your wedding liturgy is to involve all gathered for the liturgy as much as possible.

What parts does everyone sing?

Music allows the assembly to join together in prayer in a way that cannot be done with other prayer forms. There are certain parts of the liturgy that are usually sung. These include the Responsorial Psalm (after the first reading from scripture) and the Gospel Acclamation (before the reading of the gospel).

For weddings within Mass, the parts which are usually sung also include the Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen, Lamb of God, and Communion Hymn. Determining the options that will best serve the participation of the assembly and give a flow to the liturgy can be worked out in consultation with the parish Music Director.

Following are brief descriptions of the parts of the wedding liturgy for which music may be chosen. Those items preceded by an asterisk (*) are only used when the wedding is celebrated at Mass.

Gathering/Prelude Music - Instrumental music or vocal solos may be performed as people gather in the church. You may choose to leave the selection of this music to the discretion of the musicians involved. Unless otherwise requested, the parish organist will provide about 15 minutes of organ music as prelude.

Processional - Instrumental music for the procession is best chosen from pieces which have a steady rhythm and repeatable “sections” so that the music may be lengthened or shortened as the procession requires. A hymn or vocal solo of a suitable rhythmic character may also be substituted. Normally there is one processional piece for the attendants and ministers (may include servers, presider, lectors, witnesses, and even parents) and one processional for the bride or bridal couple. Normally the families of the bride and groom process during the prelude music, however the couple may choose a particular musical selection at the time of the families’ seating.

Gathering Hymn (optional) - After the Processional, a song or hymn may be sung by the assembly, thus joining the community together in prayer at the beginning of the liturgy.

Responsorial Psalm - This is the response to the first scripture reading. The refrain is usually sung by the assembly, led by a cantor.

Gospel Acclamation - This precedes the reading of the Gospel and is sung by the cantor and the assembly.

Holy Spirit Invocation – Before the couple exchanges vows, a song will be played entitled “Come Holy Spirit” as a way of asking for God’s blessing upon the bride and groom.

Music during Lighting of the Unity Candle - The lighting of this candle is an optional ceremony that is not integral to the Catholic rite. Both the candle ceremony and the music

to accompany it should be brief. Vocal solo or instrumental music - or even silence - may accompany the candle lighting.

* *Preparation of the Table* - As the bread and wine are brought forward to the altar, a brief vocal solo or instrumental piece may be presented.

* *Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen* - These three acclamations are an integral part of the Eucharistic Prayer and are sung by the assembly, led by a cantor.

Lord’s Prayer - This prayer may be either recited or sung together, but it is prayed by all in the assembly.

* *Lamb of God* - This brief litany accompanies the breaking of the bread and is sung by all in the assembly.

* *Communion Hymn* - The distribution of Holy Communion varies in length. Music to accompany the distribution should include participation by the assembly. Often this is accomplished by selecting a hymn with a simple refrain.

Marian Shrine Prayer (optional) - If you wish to make a presentation to the Blessed Virgin Mary’s shrine, a vocal solo, instrumental piece or congregational hymn may accompany this action.

Recessional - This is usually instrumental music, although a hymn or vocal solo of a suitable rhythmic character may be substituted.