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# Wedding Music



*Saint Paul  
Roman Catholic  
Church*

## Congratulations!

Father Leonardo Jaramillo, Ph.D., Pastor, along with the Music Department at St. Paul R. C. Church, offer best wishes and congratulations on your engagement and preparation for the Blessed Sacrament of Marriage. This booklet will guide and facilitate the process of selecting the musical selections that are an integral part of your Wedding Ceremony, or Full Nuptial Mass.

*“That is why a man leaves his father and  
mother and clings to his wife,  
and the two of them become one body.”*

Genesis 2:24

## Wedding Music

The celebration of Christian Marriage is a Sacrament and an integral part of the worship of the Church. Consequently, any music used in the Rite should be in accord with the principles of Liturgy and reflect the joy, as well as the solemnity of the occasion. Only sacred, classical, or music judged to have artistic merit will be permitted at the Wedding Celebration. No secular, (popular) or show/theater music will be permitted. Your Wedding Celebration will be either a complete Nuptial Mass or a Ceremony, and the selection of your music will be based on which service you choose.

*“But from the beginning of creation, God made them  
male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his  
father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two  
shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but  
one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no  
human being must separate.”*

Mark 10:6-9

## 3. Tardiness Policy

Although traditionally, the bride arrives “fashionably late”, we cannot accept excessive tardiness. ALL must be reasonable and respectful of time. The music ministry reserves the exclusive right to change, alter, or omit any musical selection during your Wedding, if you arrive **unreasonably late**, (in excess of 15 minutes). The Church has established a policy to secure a separate “**tardiness fee**” of \$100, if your wedding begins more than 15 minutes after the scheduled time. **All fees**, including: the Music Minister’s, Cantor’s and Tardiness Deposit, **must be paid two weeks prior to your wedding**. The tardiness Deposit fee will be retained by the Cantor with a separate check payment, (\$100), at the time of payment, and will ONLY be deposited if the tardiness condition is enforced.

## 4. Guests

The music fee for your Wedding Service includes the services of the music minister and the cantor. Should you desire, you may also select additional vocalists or instrumentalists, to perform at your Wedding. All musicians of your choosing must be approved by the Mass Music Minister to ascertain their competence, professionalism and knowledge of liturgical music and the order of the Full Nuptial Mass/Wedding Ceremony Service. You will be responsible for the negotiation of the additional vocalists’ and instrumentalists’ fees, which are in addition, and do not alter the Music Minister’s and Cantor’s fees. Guest organists, musicians, and singers are permitted to only perform one musical selection, which also must be approved in advance by the Music Ministry, and under no circumstances will replace the services of the Church’s musicians, (Organist & Cantor).

## 6. Offertory Hymn

The offertory hymn takes place as the gifts of bread and wine are brought forth to the altar, and the priest makes preparation for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, (Communion).

## 7. Communion Song

An appropriate song is played as your Catholic guests receive the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## 8. Devotion to Our Blessed Mother

Couples make a floral offering to Mary, our Blessed Mother, by placing a bouquet at the feet of her statue. This reflection has become a traditional part of our Parish Weddings, and includes a Marian hymn/song which is sung.

## 9. Recessional/Postlude

A march or majestic hymn tune usually accompanies the newly married couple as they exit God's altar and begin their life-journey together.

## Donations and Recommendations

### 1. Musical Minister

The musical minister's fee is \$200 for both the Full Nuptial Mass and the Wedding Ceremony. Payment **must be made 2 weeks prior** to the Wedding date, by check, mailed directly to the musicians, (addresses and contact information are found on the back page of this booklet).

### 2. Cantor

The cantor is a liturgical minister who is trained in vocal performance and liturgy. The cantor is present at all Weddings to sing the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel and Eucharistic Acclamations, the Communion Song, etc. The cantor's fee is \$150 for both the Full Nuptial Mass and the Wedding Ceremony. Payment **must be made 2 weeks prior**.

**I. Full Nuptial Mass:** The Nuptial Mass is a most formal affair and includes the Eucharistic Acclamations, additional prayers and the distribution of Holy Communion for all.

## Nuptial Mass Includes

Entrance Processional  
(1 or 2 Selections - Instrumental)  
Responsorial Psalm (Sung or recited)  
Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia (Sung)  
Unity Candle Service\* (Instrumental)  
Arras or 13 Coins (Optional)  
Rosary or Lazo (Optional)  
Offertory Hymn (Sung)

## Eucharistic Acclamations

Holy, Holy  
Memorial Acclamation  
Great Amen  
Lamb of God

Communion Song (Sung)  
Devotion to Our Blessed Mother\* (Sung)  
Recessional/Postlude (Instrumental)

**II. Wedding Ceremony:** The Wedding Ceremony omits the Eucharistic Acclamations, some additional prayers, and Holy Communion.

### **Ceremony Includes**

Entrance Processional

(1 or 2 Selections - Instrumental)

Responsorial Psalm (Sung or recited)

Unity Candle Service\* (Instrumental)

Arras or 13 Coins (Optional)

Rosary or Lazo (Optional)

Devotion to our Blessed Mother (Sung)

Recessional/Postlude (Instrumental)

Both the Full Nuptial Mass and the Wedding Ceremony include a Gospel Acclamation, (alleluia and verse), Eucharistic Acclamations, (Nuptial Mass Only), are also selected at the Music Ministry's discretion.

The Music Minister will also provide music, (classical and sacred selections), for your guests about fifteen minutes prior to the start of your Wedding.

\* (Optional, not part of the Marriage Rite. Contact your Celebrant or Pastor for information).

#### **1. Entrance Processional**

The Entrance Processional consists of the entrance of the bridal party and the bride. One musical selection may be chosen for all or it may be divided into two pieces; one for the Wedding party and one for the bride.

#### **2. Responsorial Psalm**

The Responsorial Psalm takes place between the First and Second Reading preceding the Gospel reading. It may be read, but is more appropriately sung. The Responsorial Psalm verse is taken from the *Book of Psalms* or an appropriate setting song with scriptural reference may be used.

#### **3. Unity Candle (Mandatory)**

The Unity Candle Service is the symbolism of two separate flames, (two children of God), being drawn as one in unity, forever burning bright. The service utilizes three candles. Before the Wedding begins, two family members, (or friends), usually the mothers, light the two outer flames representing their children, who are the baptized children of God, ("children of the light"). The flames are later drawn together by the couple to unite them as one.

#### **4. Arras or 13 Coins (Optional)**

Adapted from Italian and Hispanic tradition 13 gold coins, (arras), are presented by the groom to his bride as a symbol of the couple's mutual love, fidelity, trust and financial stability. The coins symbolize 13 values that the couple desire to share between themselves: love, harmony, cooperation, commitment, peace, happiness, trust, respect, caring, wisdom, joy, wholeness and nurturing. The coins also symbolize Christ and his 12 apostles, and the groom's pledge to support and trust in his bride.

#### **5. Rosary or Lazo (Optional)**

Popular in Filipino and Hispanic communities, the Lazo, (Lasso), or Rosary is a rope/Rosary placed around the couple's shoulders in a figure-eight pattern, symbolizing everlasting union and blessing of the Blessed Mother of Jesus.