

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT GUIDELINES FOR SACRED MUSIC

A wedding is a sacrament celebrating the coming together of a man and a woman in marriage. Since music is a valuable and important aspect of any liturgy, the music at your wedding celebration can say something special to all in attendance. To help you do so, musical norms in keeping with the current policy of the Diocese of Trenton and the universal church have been established at St. Gregory the Great. That is, besides being of good quality, music must be liturgical (appropriate to the ceremony) and pastoral (appropriate to the particular worshipping community).

There is much good music that is appropriate to the occasion. This page provides samples of both organ and vocal music. Samples of some of the hymns and organ music can be found below, under **Wedding Selections**. The following items are included on this page:

- guidelines regarding music for the wedding ceremony;
- Vocal music texts;
- music suggestions for specific places in the ceremony;
- a blank music selection form.

It is required that you have a cantor sing for the wedding ceremony. The Director of Sacred Music works with a small select group of outstanding vocalists, one of whom will cantor the wedding. In accordance with parish policy, only cantors from St. Gregory's parish are permitted to cantor weddings. There is a separate fee for the cantor. Visiting singers may only sing pre-service music and one selection during the wedding. In no instance does the visiting singer replace the cantor. If there is someone specific you have in mind to sing at the wedding (i.e., a friend, sister, aunt, uncle, etc.) this can be arranged, but must be coordinated with the Director of Sacred Music.

The organ is used for the processional and recessional. In accordance with parish policy, only our parish organist is permitted to use the instrument.

You are not limited to the organist and vocalist alone for the wedding. If you wish to hire a trumpeter, violinist, flutist, etc., the Music Office can help you with these details. There are extra fees for all musicians involved and these are arranged through the Music Office.

The wedding selection music form must be completed and returned to the Music Office three months before the wedding. Simply drop it off at the church rectory office, or mail it in. Be sure to include a check with the form as outlined below.

The following fees for the organist and vocalist are current as of November 2017:

- organist: \$250.00
- vocalist: \$200.00
- The procedure for payment of fees is as follows: one check should be made out to Dr. John Shaddy for the amount of \$450.00, attached to the completed wedding music selection form, and returned to the rectory office at least three months before the wedding.

Planning a wedding can be an exciting, but hectic, adventure. Please do not hesitate to contact the Director of Sacred Music if you have any questions. We will do our best to be of service.

Best wishes!

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