

ST. GERARD PARISH

4437 W. WILLOW HWY. • LANSING, MI 48917-2180



To Whom It May Concern:

Congratulations on your pending wedding at St. Gerard Parish! All of us are very excited for your new beginning as a married couple to begin in our church. This document explains some of the procedures and policies related to wedding music at St. Gerard. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anthony Baron, Director of Music Ministries at 908.4741. We want to do all that we can to ensure a prayerful and beautiful wedding ceremony for you at St. Gerard Parish.

Sincerely,
Anthony Baron
Director of Music Ministries
abaron@stgerard.org
517.908.4741

St. Gerard Wedding Policies

(Rev. July 2016)

Selecting Music for the Wedding Ceremony:

In keeping with the sacred aspects of the sacrament of marriage it is expected that Christian sacred music appropriate for liturgy be selected for use at your wedding. St. Gerard parish uses the hymnal *Gather: Third Edition*. It is expected that all music selected by the bride and groom either comes from this hymnal or is a piece of music referenced in the music planning guides/workshops.

From time to time, a piece of sacred music outside the hymnal may have special importance to the bride and groom. If that is the case, please bring that suggestion to the consultation with the Music Director. It is not the responsibility of St. Gerard or any musician working on behalf of St. Gerard to procure or purchase music not in the hymnal or planning guide. Please turn in all music selections for weddings at least forty-five days prior to the wedding.

Music Planning Workshops:

Music planning workshops are held frequently during the year to assist the bride and groom to select the music for their weddings. Members of the parish music ministry will provide brief excerpts of music and answer questions that couples may have about music at their wedding. For an up to date schedule, please visit <http://www.stgerard.org/weddingmusic>

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Selecting Musicians for your wedding:

Our parish has a number of excellent musicians and cantors who are very familiar with wedding liturgies at St. Gerard. It is strongly recommended that parish musicians and cantors be contracted for your wedding liturgy; please contact the Director of Music Ministries to make these arrangements.

At each wedding it is strongly recommended to have an organist who plays the instrumental and accompanied portions of the liturgy. It is also expected families either contract a cantor or soloist to lead the congregation in sung prayer. A cantor sings the responsorial psalm and leads the congregation in hymns and Mass parts. In addition to these functions, a soloist will sing prelude music and other solo selections.

Outside musicians and cantors who are familiar with the Catholic Mass and the Catholic Wedding Liturgy are allowed. However, outside musicians must bring their own instruments and the parish is not responsible to provide musical training. Should additional rehearsals be necessary between parish musicians and guests, there will be additional fees. It is not expected that St. Gerard will directly contract other musicians beyond the cantor/soloist and keyboardist.

For information regarding payment information, please refer to the marriage preparation booklet.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact Anthony Baron, Director of Music Ministries at 517.908.4741 or abaron@stgerard.org