

Wedding Music Policy [as of 11/11/14]

To be read by couples prior to planning and by musicians who perform at St. Philip Parish

“Music for the wedding celebration is above all a way to experience God’s loving presence and to respond in praise and prayer. Once the planning has been done, allow yourself to enter into the wedding ceremony in a spirit of prayer.” [<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/planning-a-catholic-wedding/music/>] Since the joining of two people in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is nothing less than a sacred event, the music used during your ceremony or nuptial liturgy should reflect this fact. Therefore, only music of a *sacred* or *liturgical* nature may be used within a wedding ceremony or nuptial liturgy. No *secular* or *pop* music is permitted.

To aid you in planning the musical component of your Sacrament, St. Philip Parish provides guidelines for suitable music and the support of a liturgical assistant who represents the pastor. At the end of this document is a form to complete that begins the process of musician hiring and music selection and a list of approved hymns for your consideration. You are encouraged to make plans early in the wedding process and contact the liturgical assistant to avoid delays that might jeopardize your hopes for having the music you want at your wedding ceremony.

The music director at St. Philip Parish is not available for specific-needs liturgies such as weddings. Therefore, weddings are coordinated with Mrs. Maria Elliott, liturgical assistant and representative of the Pastor. Normally, music is provided by approved, substitute organists and parish cantors. The following is the policy to be followed by musicians who assist at weddings at St. Philip Church. It contains a list of appropriate music (both traditional and contemporary), including hymns, psalms, and service music that may be selected by the couple planning their marriage. The goal is fully conscious and active participation by the congregation attending the wedding.

Couples to be married are encouraged to use the parish cantors to lead the sung portions of the wedding service. Also, couples are urged *not* to request that friends or relatives provide music for any part of the service unless they are liturgical musicians or professional musicians with demonstrated ability to perform competently in front of a congregation. If a couple desires that a relative or friend sing, this **must** be requested through the liturgical assistant, who will work with you to decide the appropriateness of the request. Likewise, it will be necessary to discuss the options with the liturgical assistant if the couple would like choirs or other ensembles from outside the parish.

The following details are expectations at a wedding at St. Philip’s Parish:

- All musicians serving weddings at the parish, including guest musicians, are expected to be prepared to perform approved hymns and service music and follow this policy.
- If guest singers are used and require rehearsal time with the organist other than on the day of the wedding, a fee will be charged. Musicians’ fees are approximately \$200. Discuss details with individual musicians.
- After notifying the rectory 6 months in advance, please complete the form for liturgical music, and **email a copy to the liturgical assistant** (information below), who will assist you in the details. The sooner you complete the form, the sooner arrangements begin.
- Using the list of hymns in this policy as a reference, the liturgical assistant will assist the couple in selecting their musical choices. Some parts of a wedding service lend themselves to instrumental music, but sung music is most appropriate for active participation in the sacrament. Approved hymn titles are contained in the list at the end of this document for your use. If a couple desires a piece of music not on the list, the liturgical assistant may consider its suitability.

- Requests for music not on the list must meet the following criteria:
 - The piece must be appropriate, liturgical, and normally in the Breaking Bread hymnal.
 - The piece should normally be known by organist and cantor or be easy to learn.
 - If there is any question about the first two points, the liturgical assistant, may look into the request, needing time to coordinate. Some pieces of music may be possible, even when not on the list; others will not be.
- The liturgical assistant contacts approved organists and cantors who regularly perform at St. Philip Church. If a special request for musicians is made, it will be attended to on an individual basis and reasonable efforts made to cooperate with the request.
- The liturgical assistant will provide the couple and organist with contact information. She will also provide the agreed-upon list of music selections to the organist.
- After the hymns, organist, and cantor are selected, the approved organist takes over the process of working with the couple or couple's representative and with the cantor to prepare the music for performance, under general oversight by the liturgical assistant.
- The organist also coordinates rehearsal time with the cantor before the wedding. A suggested arrival for rehearsal before the wedding is 45 minutes prior. Any questions may be directed to the liturgical assistant.
- The organist selects appropriate instrumental music for prelude and postlude, and coordinates any revisions with the couple or the couple's representative, including addition of any music. Questions regarding the liturgical appropriateness of a special request that cannot be handled by the organist, should be directed to the liturgical assistant before finalizing. The organist will provide a digital copy of the final music lineup to the cantor and liturgical assistant.
- Wedding "programs"/ worship aides, if desired, are the responsibility of the family. Questions may be addressed to the liturgical assistant.

Thank you for your assistance in following this policy for weddings at St. Philip Church.

Contact information:

Liturgical assistant, Mrs. Maria Elliott.
 Email address: stphililiturgicalassist@gmail.com
 Phone number: 703-789-1289 (cell)

Request for Liturgical Music at a Wedding

Date of wedding _____

Couples' Names _____

Contact information for couple (point of contact):

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Priest(s) Name(s) _____

Type of wedding: 1) Within Mass _____, 2) Outside of Mass _____

Any significant wedding details: _____

Any special requests for musicians or music: _____

[Please scan and email this form at your earliest convenience to Mrs. Maria Elliott at:
stphilipliturgicalassist@gmail.com]

List of Hymn titles for Weddings at St. Philip Church

[See policy]

All Creatures of Our God and King	#541
Amen, El Cuerpo de Cristo	#338 (bilingual)
Blest are They	#631
Christians Let Us Love One Another	#480
Come to the Feast/ Ven al Banquete	#307 (bilingual)
Eat This Bread	#333
God Who Created Hearts to Love	#676
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	#700
I Have Loved You	#611
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	#548
Love Divine All Loves Excelling	#478
Love Has Come	#477*new hymn
May God Bless You	#674*new hymn
(Luke 1) My Soul Rejoices	#829
Prayer of St. Francis	#531
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#473
Ubi Caritas	#482
When Love is Found	#678
Where Charity and Love Prevail	#488

Psalms

Psalm 33 [Lord let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.]
Psalm 34 [Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.]
Psalm 103 [The Lord is kind and merciful.]
Psalm 128 [Blessed those who fear the Lord.]
Psalm 145 [I will praise your name, my King and my God.]
Psalm 148 [Let all praise the name of the Lord.]

Service Music

During Advent and Lent, typically, Traditional Chant parts are sung: [no Gloria] Sanctus, We Proclaim Your Death O Lord, OR Save Us O Savior-chant, Danish Amen, Agnus Dei
Other times of year: English settings: **Mass of Creation** Gloria; Holy, Holy, Holy; When We Eat this Bread; Amen, Lamb of God, OR **Mass of Resurrection** (same parts)
Alleluia from “Respond & Acclaim” or Celtic Alleluia. During Lent, the Lenten acclamation is used.
The Lord’s Prayer may be recited or chanted

Solos

Ave Maria – Schubert, OR Hail Mary Gentle Woman, OR Dios, Te Salve Maria,
OR Other (Please coordinate with the liturgical. asst.)