



# Your Wedding in the Catholic Church

Diocese of Belleville, Illinois — Office of Worship

## INTRODUCTION

We, the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Belleville, offer you warm and heartfelt congratulations on your engagement! This is a wonderful and exciting time for you as you plan for your new life together. It can often be scary and overwhelming as you begin to look at all the preparation that goes into planning your wedding day. This guide is designed to assist you as you prepare to celebrate your marriage in the context of the Christian community. It is our hope that you will take the time to talk and pray together as you read and reflect on the material presented here.

## VALUES VS. TRADITIONS

Many of us have dreamed of our wedding day since childhood. We have imagined the beautiful dresses, the white runner clothing the center aisle of the church, and that “special song” playing in the background as guests gather. While the thoughts are sentimental, the Church asks us to focus on faith and the lifelong sacrament you are about to celebrate. As a faith community, we often confront cultural customs and expectations that are contrary to the values we hold as Christians. You have chosen to be married in the Catholic Church. This choice means that you are being guided by the values embodied in the life of Jesus Christ - simplicity of life, honesty in relationships, care for the poor and needy. Societal pressures and consumerism should not have more influence on your celebrations than the Christian values we are all called to embrace.

**The meaning of traditions is always important to understand.** Some traditions derived from earlier centuries may not fit within today’s renewed liturgical understandings. If you have wedding traditions you would like to incorporate into your wedding liturgy, these should be discussed with the presider well in advance to determine their appropriateness. This applies, for instance, to Marian devotions and a unity candle. Do you as a couple have a special devotion to Mary? If not, to add something to the ceremony not originally prescribed may serve only to distract from the prayer and significance of the rites. The clear ritual symbols of the marriage rite are the bride and groom and the rings; there is no unity candle prescribed. A unity candle, if used at all, would fit more appropriately at the reception.

We can all name several other traditions associated with weddings: “It’s bad luck for the bride and groom to see each other before the wedding.” “The bride has to wear something

old, something new, something borrowed and something blue..." Many of these traditions are quite old, and their meanings have been lost. Some traditions portray attitudes toward the woman or man you may not want to associate with yourselves because they don't represent your values, or the mutuality of your relationship. When discussing traditions like the white carpet, children in wedding parties, or hiding from each other before the wedding, do some research. Find out why those traditions were started, and if they are traditions you wish to perpetuate.

## **THE MINISTRY OF MARRIAGE**

You may not have thought of marriage as a ministry before, but that is indeed what it is. The faith and love you have for each other, grounded in God's unconditional and transformative love for you, is a tremendous gift, and cries out to be shared. Marriage is a call to allow your love to be a sign to the world of the intimate love of God for each of us. It celebrates a covenant relationship between husband, wife and God. The wedding liturgy is a sacramental event in which the Church witnesses to your vowed commitment and promises to pray for and support you in it. You are sent forth to be instruments of peace, justice, healing and love to each other, your children, and to the world.

## **YOUR WEDDING LITURGY AS THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

As you begin preparing your wedding liturgy, you will discover that it mirrors, almost exactly, the liturgy we celebrate as Catholics every Sunday. Therefore, the music and liturgical ministers you choose closely mirror what would be appropriate for any other liturgical celebration. This isn't simply "the bride's day," or "the couple's day," to do whatever they would like, but a day of celebration for the entire church. When you choose to marry in the church as a member of a parish community, you are asking your parish community to support you and celebrate with you, not only on your wedding day, but throughout the course of your married life.

## **MASS OR LITURGY OF THE WORD?**

The first thing you need to do is determine whether you will exchange your vows during a Mass, or during a Liturgy of the Word service. Some points to consider:

- What is our relationship to the Sunday Eucharist?
- Do we regularly celebrate with our faith community on Sunday?
- Have we been away from the community's prayer? If so, have we committed ourselves to returning?
- Will most of our family and friends be able to participate in the Eucharist if we have a Mass?

In light of your answers to these questions, ask yourselves: Is Mass or a Liturgy of the Word the better context for our celebration of marriage? Some people think that a couple isn't really married unless they are married within a Mass. This simply is not true; the sacrament is just as valid with only the Liturgy of the Word. However, the celebration of Eucharist is the fullest sign of God's selfless love for us.

If one of you is not in communion with the Roman Catholic Church (and so will not be able to share in communion if the wedding is celebrated during mass), you may want to consider what this means.

Who will your guests be? Is the celebration of the Eucharist the best way to help them be with you and pray for you at your wedding? If many of your guests are not Catholic, you may wish to consider celebrating your wedding in a Liturgy of the Word.

Be open and honest with those from your parish who are helping you prepare for your marriage, and make the decision which will provide the best context for prayer and celebration.

## **LITURGICAL MINISTERS AT YOUR WEDDING LITURGY**

Whether you choose to marry during a Mass or during a Liturgy of the Word service, it is imperative that the ministers you choose to proclaim the scriptures, lead the assembly in song, and distribute communion (during a Mass) are people with experience and training in those ministries. You may have family members or friends who are trained as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, or Liturgical Musicians who would be happy to be of assistance to you on your wedding day. If not, check with your parish about ministers who would be able to help. The invitation to proclaim the readings, lead the assembly in song, or distribute communion should not be based solely on friendship or family ties, but on experience and training, so that these ministries are carried out comfortably and competently.

### **Hospitality Ministers**

You have invited your guests to joyfully celebrate your marriage with you. It is important to set that spirit of joy and celebration early by warmly greeting and welcoming your guests. Choose ushers and greeters who are pleasant and hospitable. You may even choose to welcome your guests yourselves before the wedding. Also, consider how you seat your guests, since there is no liturgical norm for separating the bride's family from the groom's family.

### **The Bride and Groom**

You, as bride and groom, have a special role in ministering to the assembly on the day of your wedding. Your guests, as the voice of the Church, share with you their wisdom and support as you begin your journey into marriage. It is your role to welcome this gift as you welcome them. This spirit is not reflected very well in the practice of the bride and groom not seeing each other before the wedding ceremony. This custom began at a time when families arranged marriages to cement family alliances. The bride and groom were seen as property rather than people, and kept apart so that the evil spirits would stay away from at least one of them and the marriage contract would be successful. Consider whether this is a tradition you wish to perpetuate. Instead, you may wish to set aside a special place to see each other before the wedding, and share a few moments together before greeting the guests you have invited to celebrate, support and pray with you.

## **The Assembly**

Most of the guests you have invited to your wedding are people who have supported and encouraged you through various times in your life. Their presence with you on your wedding day is also one of faithful and joy-filled support. Your wedding liturgy belongs to more than just the two of you. It is a celebration of the entire church. The wedding liturgy isn't a "spectator sport" where your guests passively watch what happens. Rather, it is a joyous celebration that invites the full and active participation of the assembly that has come to support you. Be sure your wedding worship aid includes an outline, or order of service so people can easily follow and participate at the appropriate times. If possible, include the music that will be sung as well. More will be said about this later.

## **THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

When choosing the readings, prayers and music for your wedding celebration, it is helpful for you to be familiar with each part of the service and how the rites and prayers all fit together. You will find planning sheets at the end of this booklet which will outline a ceremony for both a Mass and a Liturgy of the Word. After reading through the following sections, your presider and musicians can help you complete the form.

### **The Entrance Rite**

The primary purpose for the entrance rite is to gather people together for worship. There are several ways this can happen. Often, liturgy (whether Mass or a Liturgy of the Word) begins with a greeting and gathering at the doors of the church, and followed by a procession to the sanctuary of the church. This is certainly true at a wedding. Questions you'll want to ask yourselves: Who will participate in the entrance procession? Will parents escort the bride and groom or will they enter as a couple? Will the attendants, lectors and presider also take part in the procession? Here is what the ritual prescribes:

*...The ministers go first, followed by the priest, and then the bride and the bridegroom. According to local custom, they may be escorted by at least their parents and the two witnesses. (#20)*

It is perfectly acceptable for the attendants to process two by two, rather than having the groomsmen wait in front and the bridesmaids enter by themselves. After the entrance procession there is often a gathering song which continues to unite the assembly, followed by a greeting from the presider. You, as a couple, may also wish to extend a few words of welcome.

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

After coming together and being called to worship, the assembly is seated and the readings are proclaimed. The scripture readings tell of God's love and power at work in human history, and how we are to live as God's people. For this reason, readings from sources other than the scriptures are not permitted during the Liturgy of the Word. Again, a person or people who have been trained in their own parish should be selected for this ministry. The pattern of scripture readings is:

1. a selection from the Old Testament
2. a responsorial psalm (usually sung)
3. a selection from the New Testament
4. a sung Gospel Acclamation
5. a selection from one of the Gospels

It is also possible to have just one reading (from Old Testament, Acts of the Apostles or the epistles) followed by a responsorial psalm, Gospel acclamation, and Gospel. A list of appropriate scripture readings can be found at the end of this guide. The presider's homily follows the proclamation of the scripture readings.

### **The Rite of Marriage**

The primary focus of this rite is the exchange of vows between two people. There is a variety of texts offered for this exchange to represent the Church's belief about marriage. You and your partner may wish to read through the various options and decide which one best suits you. These are available from your parish priest or deacon who will be presiding at your wedding.

The exchange of vows is placed in a special series of events. There is an introduction, a statement about your freedom and willingness to enter freely into marriage, and your willingness to bring up children. Next, you exchange your vows (there are two choices for how this may occur), then you exchange rings, and the marriage rite ends with the General Intercessions, which are prayers for the Church, for the world, for all married couples, and for the two of you. You may wish to compose your own intercessions. If so, you will need to work with someone from the parish to make sure they are in an appropriate format. Otherwise, use the ones provided in your wedding planning guide or in the wedding rite provided by your presider. Remember, that while we have much to be grateful for, intercessions are prayers of asking, not thanking.

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

If you are exchanging your vows during a Mass, then the service continues with the preparation of the gifts, and the Eucharistic prayer. While many couples don't take a collection during their wedding mass, you may want to consider including one, and donating the proceeds to your parish's social concerns committee, a local food pantry, or another favorite charity. Perhaps in your worship aid you can ask people to consider donating the amount they may spend on a beverage at the reception. In this way, you and your guests are reminded of Jesus' care and love of the poor and less fortunate.

There are parts of the Eucharistic prayer that are meant to be sung, just as at Sunday Mass. These parts include the Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen. Check with your musicians for appropriate and familiar settings of this.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Whether you are having a Mass or a Liturgy of the Word, this is a prayer in which the entire assembly participates. Some Christian traditions have the Lord's Prayer sung by a

soloist. In the Catholic tradition, however, it should be recited or sung by all.

### **The Nuptial Blessing**

There are many forms for the nuptial blessing. The texts are both prayers of intercession as well as prayers of hope for the two of you. There are various forms this blessing can take; check with your presider and musicians to help you decide.

### **Communion**

If you are exchanging your vows during a Mass, then you should select an appropriate communion processional song that can be easily sung by the assembly. Several suggestions are listed in the back of this guide. Music with a eucharistic theme, and a simple refrain are best.

### **The Dismissal**

As the liturgy concludes, the couple and the assembly are blessed. This conclusion serves as the bridge between the marriage liturgy and any ceremony that follows. You may want to discuss how this transition will take place. Will you close with a hymn of praise, or an instrumental recessional in which the ministers depart?

## **MUSIC AT YOUR WEDDING LITURGY**

Music is a basic and integral part of Catholic Worship, and therefore also for your wedding celebration. Whether you exchange your vows during a Liturgy of the Word or a Mass, music is not a frill, but an important and basic element that cannot be overlooked when planning your wedding ceremony. There are parts of the celebration that need to be accompanied by music, and the most important times are those for congregational song. Unfortunately in our recent history, this is usually the last type of music that couples consider. Allowing an organist, pianist or soloist to perform all of the music in your wedding is not compatible with Catholic Liturgy. **Planning music in which the entire assembly can take part is a vital requirement when planning music for your celebration.** It is important that the music fit the context of faith and dignity of the occasion. The texts should speak of a Christian concept of marriage, not focus on a romantic one. Every generation has its love songs, and some of them are great music. However, while they may have a place in your wedding day, they should be used outside of the wedding liturgy.

Liturgical Music is always performed live; therefore, recorded music is not appropriate for weddings.

It is also important to remember that your wedding day belongs to more than just the two of you. Those who have come to share the day with you want and deserve the opportunity to help you celebrate by lifting their hearts and voices in song. Let them be more than passive – let them celebrate with you, and select music to help them do that! Choose songs and refrains they can sing. By doing this, you give the assembly a sense that this is a celebration of joy where everyone can participate.

## **Selecting Your Musicians**

Very often, parishes have a list of their own musicians who have been trained and will be happy to assist you in planning and ministering the music for your wedding. In accord with the primary focus of the celebration, all instrumentalists and vocal musicians should fulfill their roles as ministers of the liturgy, and their location in the church needs to reflect this. It is also important that those serving as musicians for your wedding be truly competent. This competency includes a thorough understanding of the structure of the Catholic wedding liturgy. Too often, friends or relatives of the couple are asked to serve as musicians out of friendship rather than competency. You will also need to check with your musicians as to what their fee is, and when they would like you to remit payment to them.

## **Selecting Your Music**

The Church has set forth guidelines regarding the music in any liturgy, not just weddings, so the music you choose for your wedding should be evaluated in the same three areas: liturgical, pastoral, musical.

*Liturgical:* Is the music appropriate to the liturgy and celebration? Songs which are appropriate for the reception or dance, or songs that originate from movie soundtracks, Broadway shows or top 40 radio are seldom appropriate for liturgy.

*Pastoral:* Does the music allow for the assembly's participation when appropriate?

*Musical:* Is the music of quality and will it be done by competent musicians? Is it easily singable by the assembly?

Some music suggestions can be found at the end of this guide.

## **LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT AND DECORATIONS**

You may already have some ideas about decorations for your wedding, but be sure to check with the parish to see if they have any policies on decorations before you make your plans. There may already be plants, flowers, or other decorative objects in the church depending on the liturgical season and time of year. You will want to check with someone at the parish to find out what kind of environment will already be in place at the time of your wedding. Always bear in mind that the decorations in the church should complement the assembly's celebration, and not hinder or get in the way of it.

The placement of floral decorations is of utmost concern. There are to be no flowers or plants placed on the altar or ambo. Containers and stands should be placed in appropriate areas, so as not to obscure the altar, ambo or chairs for the presider and couple.

## **WORSHIP AIDS**

Many couples prepare worship aids to help guide people through the liturgy. The main purpose of a worship aid is to assist the assembly's full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy. It is more than simply a theatre program displaying a cast of characters. The format and typesetting of the worship aid should be easy to read, and it should include

any music that the assembly will be singing. If the parish has a hymnal, you can list the titles and hymnal numbers. If not, check with your parish musician or music director for copyright information that will need to be included.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Most couples today choose to have photographers and/or videographers record their marriage. Many parishes have guidelines that your photographer and/or videographer need to follow, such as staying in one place throughout the ceremony, or whether or not a flash may be used. If you are having pictures taken before the ceremony, allow enough time before the wedding starts for relaxation and prayer. If you are having pictures taken after the ceremony, be sure that you are considerate of any other event that may be taking place after your wedding, such as an afternoon Mass, or another wedding. Be clear on the time limits for use of the church for your ceremony and photos.

## **MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

Below is a list of people who will minister at the wedding ceremony. Make sure you have all the necessary people to allow your ceremony to proceed smoothly and prayerfully.

### **Ministers:**

Priest/Deacon  
Proclaimer of First Reading  
Proclaimer of Second Reading  
Reader of Intercessions  
Organist/Pianist  
Cantor/Soloist  
Other Musicians  
Ushers and Greeters

### **For Mass only:**

Gift Bearers  
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion — Body and Blood

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

We hope this booklet has assisted you in creating a liturgy that reflects both the prayer of the Church, as well as the festivity and commitment you want for your wedding. The following pages will help you select readings, music, and put together your order of prayer for your worship aid.

Best wishes to you as you honor the tradition of the Church and develop a wedding celebration that is uniquely your own!

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a — *Male and female God created them.*

Genesis 2:18-24 — *They will be two in one flesh.*

Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67 — *Isaac loved Rebekah, and was consoled for the loss of his mother.*

Tobit 7:9c-10, 11c-15 — *May God join you together and fill you with blessings.*

Tobit 8:4-9 — *May God bring us to old age together.*

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a — *For love is strong as death.*

Sirach 26:1-4, 16-21 — *A good wife and a joyful husband.*

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a — *I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah.*

### Responsorial Psalm

(should be sung - when sung, verses may not be same as references given here)

Psalm 33:12, 18, 20-21, 22 — *The earth is full of the goodness of God.*

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 —

*I will bless the Lord at all times **Or** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Psalm 103:1-2, 8, 13, 17-18a —

*The Lord is kind and merciful **Or** The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.*

Psalm 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8, 9 — *Happy are those who do what God commands.*

Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5 —

*Happy are those who fear the Lord. **Or** See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.*

Psalm 145:8-9, 10, 15, 17-18 — *The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.*

Psalm 148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 —

*Let us all praise the name of the Lord **Or** Alleluia*

## **New Testament Readings**

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 — *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (or 12:1-2, 9-13) —  
*Offer to God your bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to him.*

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 — *Your body is a temple of the Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a — *If I am without love, it will do me no good whatsoever.*

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 (or 5:2a, 25-32) —  
*This mystery has many implications, and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Colossians 3:12-17 — *Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.*

1 Peter 3:1-9 — *You should agree with one another, be sympathetic and love.*

1 John 3:18-24 — *Our love is to be something real and active.*

1 John 4:7-12 — *God is love.*

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a — *Happy are they who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.*

## **Gospel Readings**

Matthew 5:1-12a — *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Matthew 5:13-16 — *You are the light of the world.*

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (or 7:21, 24-25) — *He built his house on a rock.*

Matthew 19:3-6 — *So then, what God has united, no one must divide.*

Matthew 22:35-40 — *This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is similar.*

Mark 10:6-9 — *They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.*

John 2:1-11 — *This was the first of the signs given by Jesus; it was given at Cana.*

John 15:9-12 — *Remain in my love.*

John 15:12-16 — *This is my commandment: love one another.*

John 17:20-26 (or 17:20-23) — *May they be completely one.*

## GUIDE TO PLANNING YOUR WEDDING MUSIC

In this section, we have provided a list of appropriate music for the various parts of your wedding liturgy. Before each segment is a brief explanation of what happens at that point in the liturgy.

The selections listed are accessible to all professional parish liturgical musicians. **This is not a comprehensive list!** Your parish music director will be able to assist in determining whether or not a piece not on this list is acceptable. You will also want to consult your parish hymnal, as it, too, has many songs that would be appropriate for your wedding celebration.

### Processional/Recessional Music

The purpose of the processional music is to unite and focus the assembly's attention on the procession - the presider, any liturgical ministers, wedding attendants and the bride and groom. Only one processional song is needed; two may be used. Before the processional, you may want to select appropriate prelude music to be played and/or sung as your guests arrive. Suggestions for this can be found later in the section entitled *Solos and Other Assembly Songs*. The following suggestions are also appropriate for recessionals (leaving the church).

Allegro Maestoso – George Friederich Handel  
Canon in D – Johann Pachelbel  
Hornpipe (Allegro Maestoso) – George Friederich Handel  
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – Johann Sebastian Bach  
Ode to Joy – Ludwig van Beethoven  
Prelude to Te Deum – Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
Rigaudon – Andre Campra  
Rondeau – Jean Joseph Mouret  
Saint Anthony Chorale – Attributed to Joseph Haydn  
THAXTED – Gustav Holst  
Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell  
Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley

### Gathering Songs

After the entrance procession, couples may choose to sing a gathering song to unite the assembly in prayer. While a gathering song isn't required, it is particularly helpful when families come from different Christian backgrounds, again as a unifying agent for the assembly.

All Creatures of Our God and King – LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
All People That on Earth Do Dwell – OLD HUNDRETH  
Canticle of the Sun – Marty Haugen  
For the Beauty of the Earth - Traditional  
Gather Us In – Marty Haugen

Gather Your People – Dan Schutte  
Gathered in the Love of Christ – Marty Haugen  
God in the Planning – BE THOU MY VISION  
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father - HYFRYDOL  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore You – ODE TO JOY  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - HYFRYDOL  
Praise to the Lord – LOBE DEN HERRN  
Rain Down – Jaime Cortez  
Sing of the Lord's Goodness – Ernest Sands  
When Love Is Found – O WALY WALY  
Lover of Us All – Dan Schutte  
God is Love – ABBOT'S LEIGH  
God, Who Created Hearts to Love - LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### **Responsorial Psalm**

It is most appropriate that the responsorial psalm be sung. The Psalm follows the first reading, and is led by the cantor. The cantor intones the refrain, the assembly repeats it, and the cantor sings the verses. It is important that the text be a psalm; a solo or other sacred song may not be used. Refer to the above list for appropriate selections.

### **Gospel Acclamations**

Before the Gospel is proclaimed by the presider, an alleluia is sung by the cantor and assembly. If your wedding takes place during Lent (not the usual practice), you will need a Lenten gospel acclamation that doesn't include an alleluia. Your musician will be able to suggest something appropriate.

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

If your ceremony is taking place during Mass, then you may want to select a piece to be sung by the assembly or a soloist during this time. Bear in mind that without a collection, the time is short, so select a piece that can be ended easily. If you choose to take a collection for a local food pantry or charity, the piece may be longer.

Blest Are They – David Haas  
Center of My Life – Paul Inwood  
City of God – Dan Schutte  
Here I Am, Lord – Dan Schutte  
I Have Loved You – Michael Joncas  
My Song Will Be For You Forever – David Haas  
On Eagle's Wings – Michael Joncas  
The Love of the Lord – Michael Joncas  
We Are Called – David Haas  
We Are Many Parts – Marty Haugen  
We Have Been Told – Marty Haugen  
We Will Serve the Lord – Rory Cooney  
Wherever You Go - Weston Priors  
Wherever You Go – David Haas

### **Eucharistic Acclamations and Lamb of God**

If you are celebrating your wedding during a Mass, the Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen and Lamb of God will need to be sung by the assembly. Your cantor can assist the assembly in singing their parts, and additional instruments can also be used to add festivity to the organ or piano part. Check with your musicians or your presider to determine the best musical settings.

### **Communion Processional**

If you are celebrating your wedding during a Mass, then you will want to choose a communion processional that can be sung by the cantor and assembly as they come forward to receive communion.

Eat This Bread - Taize  
Taste and See – James Moore  
Gift of Finest Wheat - Robert Kreutz  
Table of Plenty – Dan Schutte  
Song of the Body of Christ – David Haas  
In the Breaking of the Bread – Bob Hurd  
The Supper of the Lord – Laurence Rosania  
Bread for the World – Bernadette Farrell  
Bread, Blessed and Broken – Michael Lynch  
One Bread, One Body – John Foley, S.J.  
No Greater Love – Michael Joncas  
Take and Eat – Michael Joncas  
Pan de Vida – Bob Hurd

### **Solos and Other Assembly Songs**

The following selections are a small sampling of other pieces that can be incorporated into your wedding liturgy at appropriate places, or used as a prelude.

A Nuptial Blessing – Michael Joncas  
Ave Maria – Bach/Gounod  
Ave Maria - Schubert  
Covenant Hymn – Cooney/Daigle  
God Is Love – David Haas  
Love One Another – James Chepponis  
May Love Be Ours, Lord – Michael Joncas  
The Gift of Love – Hal Hopson  
Ubi Caritas – Bob Hurd  
Ubi Caritas – Chant  
Now Thank We All Our God – NUN DANKET  
This Day God Gives Me – Trad. Irish  
There is One Lord – Taize  
How Beautiful – Twila Paris

## **PUBLISHERS REPRESENTED IN THESE LISTINGS**

If you reprint the words or music from any of these selections, you must include the copyright information. Your parish music director will be able to help you with this.

GIA Publications, Inc. — 7404 South Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638.  
1-800-442-1358 — [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com)

OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) — 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213  
1-800-548-8749 — [ocp.org](http://ocp.org)

World Library Publications — 3825 North Willow Road, Schiller Park, IL 60176-2309  
1-800-566-6150 — [wlpmusic.com](http://wlpmusic.com)

Another good resource in planning your wedding and for your marriage is:  
For Your Marriage ([foryourmarriage.org](http://foryourmarriage.org)) – An initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING SHEET

## Wedding Mass

### Gathering Rites

Prelude

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*Music from "Processional/Recessional," and "Solo and Other Assembly Songs" sections of this booklet are particularly appropriate.*

Processional

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*Music from "Processional/Recessional," section of this booklet is particularly appropriate.*

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Opening Song (optional)

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*Music from "Gathering Songs" section is particularly appropriate.*

Opening Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

---

*Old Testament options, typically*

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

---

*New Testament options, typically*

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

---

*Gospel Reading options*

Homily

## **Rite of Marriage**

Declaration of Intent  
Exchange of Vows  
Exchange of Rings

Intercessions

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Preparation of the Gifts

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*Instrumental or music from "Preparation of the Gifts" or "Solo and Other Assembly Songs" sections are particularly appropriate.*

Eucharistic Acclamations

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Lord's Prayer  
Nuptial Blessing  
Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

---

Communion

---

*Music from "Communion Processional" section is particularly appropriate.*

Prayer after Communion

## **Concluding Rite**

Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional

---

*Music from "Processional/Recessional," section of this booklet is particularly appropriate.*

# WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING SHEET

## Wedding Liturgy Outside Mass

### Gathering Rites

Prelude

---

*Music from "Processional/Recessional," and "Solo and Other Assembly Songs" sections of this booklet are particularly appropriate.*

Processional

---

*Music from "Processional/Recessional," section of this booklet is particularly appropriate.*

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Opening Song (optional)

---

*Music from "Gathering Songs" section is particularly appropriate.*

Opening Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

---

*Old Testament options, typically*

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

---

*New Testament options, typically*

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

---

*Gospel Reading options*

Homily

## **Rite of Marriage**

Declaration of Intent  
Exchange of Vows  
Exchange of Rings

Intercessions

Nuptial Blessing

Lord's Prayer

## **Concluding Rite**

Blessing and Dismissal

Recessional

---

*Music from "Processional/Recessional," section of this booklet is particularly appropriate.*

## Notes

