

**SAINT JULIE BILLIART PARISH**  
**WEDDING MUSIC PLANNING GUIDELINES**

**PLANNING YOUR WEDDING MUSIC**

Congratulations on your engagement! One of the most important and rewarding steps in planning your wedding includes preparing the liturgy and deciding which music will help augment your day.

At St. Julie's, we pray and celebrate the couple being married in our parish. Each wedding celebrated at St. Julie's is a parish liturgy and must observe the liturgical guidelines for Catholic worship.

**THE MUSIC**

The rite of marriage is a liturgical celebration and calls for music that serves a liturgical purpose. The requirements for music at the wedding liturgy are the same as for Sunday Mass, or any other liturgical celebration. Each musical selection is evaluated with three criteria:

*Liturgical* -is it connected to the liturgical action and is the text suitable for that part of the rite?

*Pastoral* – does it bring the assembly more deeply into the holiness of the celebration?

*Musical* –is it a piece of music that expresses the profound mystery of God's love?

At St. Julie's, our liturgies rely on congregation participation so the music selected must allow for such involvement. Your selections should reflect the prayers and readings you have chosen for the Mass as well as engage the congregation in prayer and active participation. "Solo" selections must be reserved for appropriate times during the Mass. Secular pop music and original music would not be appropriate for Catholic worship, even if it speaks of love or marriage, but would better suit the reception following the sacramental portion of the wedding day. All music selected must be approved by the music director and follow the ***Church's liturgical rubrics***.

***Introductory Rites:*** Includes the procession (Instrumental or congregational hymn) with the option of a hymn following an instrumental processional.

***Liturgy of the Word:*** Includes the readings, responsorial psalm, Gospel and acclamation.

***Rite of Marriage:*** following the blessing and exchange of rings, the assembly may join in an Offertory hymn transitioning to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**\*Liturgy of the Eucharist:** Begins with the Offertory hymn, sung Mass parts (Holy, Agnus Dei, etc.) and the Communion hymn. \* For weddings outside of Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is omitted.

**Concluding Rite:** After the final blessing and introduction of the newly married couple, the recessional/processional occurs. This may be a sung hymn, or an instrumental selection.

## THE MUSICIANS

The most time-sensitive item is to contact and book your musicians. **All liturgies celebrated at St. Julies are accompanied by the parish organist/Music director.** Additional instruments, such as flute, violin, trumpet, will absolutely enhance the beauty of your wedding. There are many options and combinations of instruments that are possible. The music director has a network of professional instrumentalists and vocalists and can make recommendations based on your preferences.

## THE TIMELINE

Once you have secured a date with the parish office, contact the music director ([music@saintjulies.org](mailto:music@saintjulies.org)) to book musicians. You can begin listening to the links included to start forming your list of selections. If you attend weekly Mass, it is a good idea to note any hymns that hold specific meaning to you.

Three months prior to the wedding, contact the music director to meet, and discuss your music options. This is critical because all musicians must have the date secured.

Finally, a month before your wedding, you should provide the music director with your final music selections so that all musicians involved with receive a finalized list of music.

## FEES

The music director/organist fee is \$350. for playing for the wedding, as well as meetings with the couple, and coordinating all extraordinary musicians. Payments can be made in cash (preferred) or by check to *Marshall Connolly* no later than one month prior to the wedding date.

Professional musicians (Trumpet, Violin, etc.) have their own fees and schedule and should be paid by check. The music director can help you through this.