



# Holy Rosary Cathedral

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# Music for Weddings

Some Suggestions for Couples

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This document reproduces information posted to Holy Rosary Cathedral's wedding music website (please note Web address above). Once you have arranged a date and time with the Parish Office, please contact the organist (tel. 306 525 6214) to make specific wedding music arrangements and to set up a meeting.

## Preludes to the Wedding

It is customary to have 15-20 minutes of instrumental music played before the wedding begins. This music assists in welcoming guests as they enter the church, and helps to set a festive mood. The following table contains some suggestions for appropriate music.

Composer	Title
Bach	Shorter preludes and fugues
Bach	Trio sonatas
Bach	Concertos based on works of Vivaldi and others
Bach	Jesu, Joy
Bach	Sheep May Safely Graze
Bach	Air on the G String
Bach	Pastorale in F
Bach/Gounod	Ave Maria
Boellmann	Minuet
Boellmann	Priere a Notre Dame
Bossi	Allegretto
Handel	Minuet (Berenice)
Handel	Movements from the Water Music
Handel	Movements from Music for the Royal Fireworks
Handel	Movements from the organ concertos
Handel	Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Sweelinck	Balletto del Granduca
Sweelinck	Unter der Linden grüne
Vaughan Williams	Rhosymedre

## As the Wedding Begins

### Processional music (instrumental)

A few moments before the wedding begins, an usher will be sent to check with the bride and her party that all is ready. The usher returns to the Sacristy and informs the witnessing priest that this is so.

The groom and his attendants leave the Sacristy, process into the church, and take their positions along the right-hand side of the main aisle. Music (generally a very brief improvisation) accompanies this short procession.

When the groom, his attendants, and the witnessing priest are in their positions, there is a momentary pause in the music. The priest invites the guests to stand. This is the signal for the bride's procession to begin, and for the processional music to commence.

Customs associated with the bridal procession vary a great deal from church to church. At Holy Rosary Cathedral it is customary to treat the procession of

bridesmaids and bride (together with flower girls, etc.) as a single procession. It is also customary, therefore, to have one piece of music to accompany the entire bridal procession, though if desired the music can become more dramatic as the bride begins making her way up the aisle.

As noted, the music commences as the procession begins, and concludes as bride and groom meet before the priest.

It is strongly recommended that this processional music be instrumental rather than vocal. The words of a sung composition are not effective at this point: people's attention is focused on the bride, groom, and others in procession.

Composer	Title
Bach	Concertos based on works of Vivaldi and others
Bach	Jesu, Joy
Boellmann	Minuet
Charpentier	Prelude to the Te Deum
Clarke	Prince of Denmark's March
Handel	Movements from the Water Music
Handel	Movements from Music for the Royal Fireworks
Handel	Allegro Maestoso
Handel	Largo (Xerxes)
Mouret	Rondeau
Pachelbel	Canon in D
Purcell	Trumpet Tune

### Opening hymn (optional)

After the procession is complete, an opening hymn may be sung if desired. It should be something that everyone can join in singing; a vocal solo is not appropriate at this point. See ***Catholic Book of Worship*** numbers **625 - 634** (or any hymn of praise in the book: see the index) for possible selections. Please note that ***Catholic Book of Worship*** is readily available to your guests in the pews.

## Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word at a wedding generally includes the following six elements:

- The First Reading
- The Responsorial Psalm
- The Second Reading

- [The Gospel Acclamation](#)
- [The Gospel](#)
- [The Homily](#)

Of these elements, both the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation can be sung by cantor and guests, accompanied by organ (or piano). If they are not sung, the Psalm is read by the person reading the First Reading, and the Gospel Acclamation is omitted.

Many appropriate psalm texts and musical settings are available in the ***Catholic Book of Worship III***. Among these are:

Psalm text	CBW number	Refrain
Ps 25	16	To you, O Lord
Ps 126	22	The Lord has done great things for us
Is 12	25	Sing and shout for joy
Ps 89	27	Forever I will sing
Ps 98	29B	All the ends of the earth
Ps 33	33	Happy are those who fear the Lord
Ps 67	36	O God, be gracious and bless us
Ps 33	47	May your love be upon us
Ps 19	51	Lord, you have the words of everlasting life
Ps 103	52	The Lord is kind and merciful
Ps 34	55	Taste and see that the Lord is good
Ps 33	77	The earth is full of love
Ps 16	94	Show us, Lord, the path of life
Ps 67	105	Let the peoples praise you
Ps 96	117	Proclaim the wonders of the Lord
Ps 103	130	The Lord is compassion and love
Ps 92	143	It is good to give thanks
Ps 89	148	Forever I will sing
Ps 33	168	Happy the people the Lord has chosen
Ps 145	184	The Lord is close to all who call him
Ps 19	188	The precepts of the Lord give joy
Ps 128	191	May the Lord bless us
Ps 90	194	Fill us with your love, O Lord
Ps 145	204	I will bless your name
Ps 128	208	O blessed are those
Ps 97	222	The Lord is king

It is important to have the responsorial psalm sung by someone trained to do so and familiar with the style and purpose of cantorial singing. If the psalm is not sung, it is typically recited by the person who reads the First Reading.

## Gospel Acclamation

If not sung by cantor and congregation, this acclamation is omitted. If sung, the following settings are appropriate for a wedding:

CBW	Composer
247	Isele
248	Gregorian chant
249	Murray
254	Berthier
256	Haugen
257	Peloquin
549A	O'Carroll/Walker

## The Exchange of Vows and Rings

There is no music for this part of the rite.

If a candle-lighting ceremony is desired, quiet (usually improvised) instrumental music accompanies it. The candle-lighting ceremony is less than a minute in length, and is therefore not an appropriate place for a hymn or other sung composition.

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Please note that at some weddings the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not celebrated. Please consult with the priest on this matter.

## Presentation of the Gifts

At a wedding, the Presentation of the Gifts is generally a brief part of the liturgy, typically occupying less than a minute and a half. It is therefore customary to have a brief (often improvised) organ or instrumental interlude at this point. A brief eucharistic hymn for cantor and congregation is also appropriate if desired.

## Eucharistic Acclamations

These can be sung by cantor and congregation if desired. If preferred, they can be spoken by all rather than sung.

## Holy

278A	Dufford
280A	Isele
283A	Somerville

## Memorial Acclamation

279C	Haugen
283B	Somerville

## Great Amen

279D	Haugen
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## Lord's Prayer

At weddings, the Lord's Prayer is nearly always said rather than sung. If it is to be sung, see the settings at **287** (Somerville) or **299F** (Gregorian). Again, it is important that all present at the liturgy are able to participate in the singing or reciting of this text. It is not appropriate for a soloist.

## Lamb of God

288	Somerville
293	Isele

## During Communion

A eucharistic hymn can be sung by cantor and congregation. For appropriate choices, see ***Catholic Book of Worship*** nos. **595 - 611**.

Alternatively, the cantor can sing an appropriate solo. Any song of praise is appropriate, as are musical works with close links to the eucharistic theme, such as César Franck's ***Panis Angelicus***.

## The Signing of the Register

This is the spot (approximately 3 minutes in length) for a vocal solo or a more substantial instrumental solo. Favourites here are various settings of the ***Ave Maria*** (Hail Mary, Full of Grace) by Franz Schubert, Bach/Gounod, the ***Wedding Hymn*** by Handel, and others, as well as classics such as ***Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*** by Bach or less well known pieces such as ***O Love be Deep*** by Walter MacNutt. It is also possible to sing a congregational hymn at this point: see ***Catholic Book of Worship*** numbers 625 - 634 for several appropriate selections.

## The end of the ceremony

### Closing hymn (optional)

Before the wedding party begins to leave the Cathedral, a closing hymn may be sung if desired. It should be something that everyone can join in singing; a vocal solo is not appropriate at this point. See ***Catholic Book of Worship*** numbers **625 - 634** (or any hymn of praise in the book: see the index) for possible selections. Please note that Catholic Book of Worship is readily available to your guests in the pews.

### Recessional

As the wedding party leaves the Cathedral, an instrumental (not vocal) piece is played. As with the Processional, everyone's attention is focused on the newly married couple as they leave the building; the words of a hymn or song are not effective here. Instrumental music for the recessional is typically grand and festive, taking advantage of the rich sound of Holy Rosary Cathedral's organ.

Composer	Title
Bach	Various preludes and fugues
Bach	In Thee Is Joy
Buxtehude	Toccatà in F
Charpentier	Prelude to the Te Deum
Clarke	Prince of Denmark's March
Dupre	Prelude and Fugue in B
Gigout	Grand Choeur Dialogue
Handel	Allegro Maestoso
Mathias	Toccatà Giocosa
Marcello	Psalm XIX - The Heavens Declare
Purcell	Trumpet Tune
Vierne	Final (Symphonie I)
Widor	Toccatà (Symphonie V)

## Notes

1. As a rule, musicians do not attend the wedding rehearsal. They prepare and rehearse separately. If you have your own soloist, rehearsals will be arranged by agreement between her or him and the organist.
2. If you wish to engage a soloist, the organist can recommend trained singers experienced in the Cathedral's large acoustical environment.
3. Microphones for soloists are not available in the organ loft.

4. The Cathedral Choir can, by special arrangement, sing at weddings. Contact the choirmaster at least two months in advance for further information.
5. Special requests for vocal music must be accompanied in advance by legitimately published copies for both the soloist and the organist. ***Any use of photocopied music is illegal.***
6. Prerecorded music is not permitted in liturgical celebrations, including weddings, at Holy Rosary Cathedral. For more information, consult the Snowbird Statement on liturgical music, available through the wedding information website.
7. Finally, please ensure you have contacted the organist with the date, time, and other details of your wedding, together with any other information you might have.