

Salve Regina University Handbook and Policies for Catholic Weddings

***Please note, we will communicate only with the bride and groom in planning your wedding. We do not communicate with parents or event planners.**



SALVE REGINA
UNIVERSITY

You must arrange for a priest or deacon to preside at your marriage, if you are able to arrange this, you may proceed to our handbook and policies

Your Marriage is Holy

The wedding you are now beginning to plan is, in the view of the Catholic Church, a significant religious event. Your wedding will engage your guests in celebrating your love as it is consecrated and sealed in the Rites of the Catholic Church. Before God's altar, the priest or deacon, and the Church, you will pledge your love to each other in the bond of life-long fidelity. This is the beginning of your journey together through life in the Sacrament of Marriage.

It is important from the very early stages of the wedding preparation to focus as much attention on the details of the wedding ceremony in our Chapel as on the other important aspects of your wedding day. Our Catholic Wedding Coordinator is available to assist you in preparing for your wedding and will be your day-of planner for the rehearsal and ceremony. Your local priest or deacon, our Ceremony Coordinator, and your musicians will help make your wedding beautiful and meaningful. We will help you create a ceremony that will be joyful and dignified, and that will speak clearly to your guests of the religious nature of the wedding celebration.

Our goal is to ensure that your wedding ceremony runs smoothly and to help you to prepare for the sacrament of marriage. **Our Chapel is Sacred** and it is our requirement that your ceremony be dignified. In addition, as our guest, we ask that everyone in your wedding party conduct themselves at all times with dignity and respect. There is no alcohol permitted in the chapel or on campus at any time.

Remember: **Your Wedding is Just One Day; Your Marriage is a Lifetime**

Reserving your Date

This process is explained below however in order to hold the date you will need the following:

- 1.) Complete priest information for priest preparing your paperwork and priest celebrating.
- 2.) Chapel Reservation form filled out completely. It is located in this document.
- 3.) Priest letter granting permission for you to marry at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel and stating that you have not been previously married.
- 4.) A non-refundable check in the appropriate amount.

We will hold the date for 30 days in order for you to gather this paperwork, please see below.

If you are able to meet these four requirements, please continue to the Handbook and Policies.



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Making Your Reservation for Your Date and Time

Catholic Wedding Reservations are scheduled by:
Catholic Wedding Coordinator
100 Ochre Point Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
401-341-3153
Email: catholicweddings@salve.edu

Reservations are made in three hour blocks: first hour for setup and arrival, second hour for the ceremony, and third hour for breakdown and cleanup. The ceremony is in the second hour, this is non-negotiable. Brides and grooms are free to choose the hour of their ceremony; there are no set times, however you may have to schedule around our mass times, or other weddings.

Reservations Must be Made at Least 8 Months Prior to Wedding

Weddings at Salve are booked years in advance. So, once you have a few dates in mind, please contact us immediately. Salve asks for 8 months in advance due to the paperwork complications that many brides and grooms face when getting married outside of their own church or state.

Four Steps are Required to Reserve Your Date:

Failure to complete these four steps within 30 days of initial contact will be an indication that you are not interested in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel for your wedding, if we do not hear back, we will cancel the date. Verbal agreements are not binding!

- 1.) Complete priest information.
- 2.) Complete the [Catholic Wedding Chapel Reservation Form](#) after tentatively securing a date and time with the Catholic Wedding Coordinator. This is located in the handbook.
- 3.) Obtain **permission** to be married at Salve Regina University from the pastor of the bride's church and submit a letter attesting to this. (If the bride is not Catholic then from the groom's pastor.)
- 4.) Send **payment** in full: (check payable to Salve Regina University)
\$700.00 for graduates, current students, faculty, and staff of Salve Regina University.
\$3,000.00 for all others.

The Fee is Non-negotiable and Non-refundable after reservation.

The [Catholic Wedding Chapel Reservation Form](#) with **payment & permission** should be sent to:
Catholic Wedding Coordinator, 100 Ochre Point Ave. Newport, RI 02840

[Click here for a copy of the Catholic Wedding Chapel Reservation Form](#)

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Bride or Groom Must Be a Registered Parishioner at a Catholic Church:

This is not merely a Salve Regina University requirement; it is a requirement for all couples seeking the Catholic Sacrament of Marriage. Paperwork MUST be prepared in the state in which you live. It is presupposed that you are an active parishioner at your local church. Simply ask your pastor to send us a quick note stating that you are a parishioner, that there are no hindrances to your getting married, and that he grants you permission to have your wedding at Salve Regina University. If you are not registered at your local parish, it is suggested that you do so immediately so that you may acquire this important permission.

Fees for Reservation of Chapel for Salve Affiliates and Non-Affiliates:

\$700.00 for Salve Regina University Affiliates:

i.e. Graduates, current full-time Students, Faculty and Staff of Salve Regina University.

Clarification: does not include relatives (sons/daughters/nieces/nephews, etc.) of graduates, students, faculty & staff)

\$3,000.00 for all others.

The Fee is Non-negotiable and Non-refundable.

Your wedding date will not be reserved if payment is not received within 30 days of your initial contact.

Finding A Roman Catholic Priest Or Deacon To Perform Your Ceremony:

Salve Regina University, Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, supplies the location for your catholic wedding, however, you must arrange for your own Roman Catholic priest or deacon to preside at your marriage. We do not recommend or supply priests. You will need to ask your priest/deacon far in advance so that he can clear his calendar and find a replacement at the parish. If you have an established relationship with your church they should be happy to do this for you. Please remember to give a gratuity to your priest/deacon – the gratuity is customarily given to him at the wedding rehearsal.

Preparing For Your Catholic Marriage: Instructions and Documentation:

All couples are required to submit a Wedding Data File with their own diocese FROM THE STATE IN WHICH YOU LIVE. The process is explained below.

Your **Wedding Data File documents** are given to your priest/deacon and sent to his diocese after preparation. **DO NOT send them directly to Salve Regina University**

The Diocese of Providence requires that a bride and groom have at least 6 months of preparation time before their marriage. This will give the couple enough time to meet with their parish priest/deacon to begin the process of gathering all the necessary paperwork, and will allow the couple to attend a Marriage Preparation Program (Pre-Cana).

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Marriage Preparation Program (Pre-Cana): The couple may fulfill this requirement wherever it is most convenient. Every diocese conducts these programs. Your priest/deacon will give you information regarding the dates, times and locations of a variety of programs. Simply choose the format that works best for the two of you. Please give the Certificate to your priest/deacon once you complete the program. He will then add it to your Wedding Data File.

The priest/deacon who completes the Wedding Data File documentation is responsible to ensure that all Diocese of Providence regulations are observed regarding the investigation of the bride and groom. If a dispensation is required, the priest must follow the Diocese of Providence protocol.

For Catholics - These documents include current official certificates with the church seal (not the originals) of your Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation records. Simply call the parish at which you were baptized, explain that you are getting married, and request a current copy of your records. Parish secretaries do this all the time and they will know exactly what you are requesting. Give these to your priest who is preparing your paperwork.

For Non-Catholics – You will need to get two letters of “Free Status.” Simply ask two people that know you very well (family is fine) to confirm that you have never been married before. You will also need to provide a copy of your birth certificate. Give these to your priest who is preparing your paperwork.

Once Your Wedding Data File is Complete

If you are a parishioner outside of Rhode Island:

Once your Wedding Data File documentation is complete, your priest/deacon will then send it to his local Diocesan Chancellor – who will in turn, send it to the Diocese of Providence Chancellor – who will then send it to Salve Regina University.

If you are a parishioner in Rhode Island:

Your priest/deacon may send the completed Wedding Data File with appropriate dispensations to The Catholic Wedding Coordinator at Salve Regina University.

Rhode Island Wedding License:

A Rhode Island Marriage License must be acquired within the three months (90 days) before wedding. Please visit: [State of RI Marriage Requirements](#)

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Rehearsal and Wedding Day Details and Policies:

By signing the Chapel Reservation Form you agree to abide by our policies and procedures of Our Lady of Mercy Chapel.

We understand that your wedding is a celebration. However, **alcohol is not permitted in the chapel or on the grounds of Salve Regina University at any time!**

Ceremony Coordinator, Flowers, Aisle Runners, Rice/Petals/Bubbles, Use of Candles, Animals in the Chapel, Flower Girls/Ring Bearers, Photography and Video, Photos at Ochre Court, Parking, Directions and Traffic

Ceremony Coordinator:

Salve Regina University will provide a Catholic Ceremony Coordinator for the rehearsal and the wedding who is familiar with the sacramental nature of the wedding ceremony. She will be there to guide you through both days. This is your rehearsal and day-of coordinator. There is no need for an outside party planner to attend the rehearsal or ceremony, we take care of everything.

Rehearsal:

The Chapel may be used for **one hour** for the wedding rehearsal (typically the evening before the wedding ceremony and an hour before your rehearsal dinner). It is important and a sign of courtesy to start the rehearsal on time. Our Ceremony Coordinator will be available during the rehearsal. She will go over any special plans you have for your ceremony and will help organize the procession and ensure everyone is familiar with their roles. The Bridal Party Lineup for the procession down the aisle should be pre-planned in writing so that the rehearsal can go smoothly and be a respectful experience. It is customary to give the priest your gratuity at this time.

Wedding Day Details:

The Chapel will be open **one hour before** the scheduled wedding ceremony and **remain open for one hour after** the ceremony at which time the building will be closed. The groom and his groomsmen should be at the chapel one hour before the wedding in order to usher guests to their seats. The Bride and her bridal party should make every effort to arrive on time. Please arrive prepared, we do not have an area to get ready. We do not allow curling irons, flat irons or hairspray in the chapel. It is a wise idea to bring a cell phone in the limousine should anything happen on the way to the chapel.

Flowers:

The bride and groom make their own arrangements for flowers. All deliveries and set-up requirements for flowers should take place within the allotted one hour before the ceremony. Flowers, greenery, or other decorations are not permitted on the altar. Nothing is to be taped, stapled or nailed to the pews. If pew bows or flowers are to be attached to the pews, pipe cleaners or ribbons are to be used. You may wish to take your flowers to your reception. If you choose to leave the flowers at the chapel, be sure to make arrangements to return any flower baskets or pedestals provided by florists before the wedding party leaves for the reception. This is not the responsibility of the chapel or the Ceremony Coordinator. Courtesy also demands that boxes, bows, ribbons, and other items be removed from the chapel before the wedding party leaves the chapel. The chapel is thus clean and ready for the next event.

Aisle Runner:

Aisle runners are NEVER permitted due to slipping and tripping hazards.

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[Rice, Petals, Bubbles, etc.:](#)

The throwing of rice, seeds, confetti, ecofetti, flower petals (both real and fake), or the use of bubbles, (inside and outside) is not permitted.

Use of Candles:

No candles are permitted other than the chapel altar candles. No Unity candles or lanterns of any kind.

Animals in the Chapel:

Assistance dogs are the only animals permitted in the chapel. Your dog may not be a ring bearer.

Flower Girls and Ring Bearers:

We strongly encourage your flower girls and ring bearers to be at least five years of age in order to limit any disruption to your ceremony. If you choose to have a young girl or boy in your wedding they are encouraged to *walk* down the aisle, or the alternative is that an adult can carry them. You may not use a wagon or stroller to get them down the aisle.

Photography and Video:

We ask that all photographers be discreet. No one is to step on the elevated, altar/sanctuary (platform area). No cameras or video equipment of any kind can be placed on the on the altar, kneelers, or chairs. This includes microphones, microphone stands, video cameras, or any other recording or sharing devices including, laptops, ipads, etc. Photographers should be seated during the Liturgy of the Eucharist as a sign of respect.

Photographs at Ochre Court:

As a courtesy, we extend the opportunity of the possibility of having wedding photos taken at Ochre Court for an additional \$275 fee. This is entirely dependent on availability. We cannot guarantee that Ochre Court will be available for your photographs, especially if your wedding is scheduled during the academic year. Please have alternative locations prearranged with your photographer in case Ochre Court is unavailable. Availability is NOT guaranteed. Photographs are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. To check availability and schedule your photos, please contact Lauren Diomandes, 401-341- 2116 or lauren.diomandes@salve.edu at University Events and Conference Services, no more than one month prior (28, 29, 30, or 31 days depending on the month) to your ceremony. Please know that you cannot have photos taken at Ochre Court without prior permission. Permission is also required for the use of the grounds of Ochre Court. If you are unclear about our policies regarding the use of Ochre Court please contact the Catholic Wedding Coordinator for clarification.

Parking:

We have plenty of parking at Salve. Guests may park on Ochre Point Avenue, in front of the chapel, on both sides of the street. There are large parking lots in front of Rogers Recreation Center and McKillop Library, there are also smaller parking lots on the north side of the chapel, on Leroy Avenue, and on the east side behind the chapel. We can easily accommodate your parking needs; however we do, at times, have other events taking place on campus that will also be using parking. Your guests ARE allowed to park in areas that are marked for students, faculty, and staff. Parking for your wedding is pre-arranged with security by the Catholic Wedding Coordinator.

Directions and Traffic:

The chapel shares the address of our main administration building, Ochre Court, of 100 Ochre Point Avenue in Newport. It is best to give your guests the street intersection of Leroy Avenue and Ochre Point Avenue and let them know that we are on the southeast corner. Please also prepare your out-of-town guests for Newport traffic and bridge traffic! People often don't factor in the time needed for sitting in traffic. Sometimes traffic can be backed-up on the Newport/Pell Bridge and it is not unheard of to be waiting in traffic upwards of 30 minutes to exit for Newport.

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Our Lady of Mercy Chapel:

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Our Lady of Mercy Chapel on the corner of Ochre Point Ave. and Leroy Ave.



The chapel comfortably seats 225.



Bridal waiting room with world famous John LaFarge stained glass windows. Doors close for privacy.

Catholic Wedding • Chapel Reservation Form

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND



SALVE REGINA
UNIVERSITY

All fields must be filled in and printed legibly for a valid contract. Failure to return this completed form within 30 days of your initial contact will result in the loss of your reservation.

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Verbal agreements are not binding.

Wedding	Date: _____	Day of the week: _____	Hour: _____
	Month (spelled in full), Day, Year	Day (spelled in full),	
Rehearsal	Date: _____	Day of the week: _____	Hour: 5:00
	Month (spelled in full), Day, Year	Day (spelled in full),	
Year of SRU graduation: Bride: _____	and/or Groom: _____	No affiliation: _____	
Or Explain SRU affiliation: _____			

BRIDE: Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

If Bride is Catholic: Name and address of the Church where she is currently a parishioner:

GROOM: Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

If Groom is Catholic: Name and address of the Church where he is currently a parishioner:

MARRIAGE STATEMENT: I hereby attest that I have never been previously married and that we agree to the policies stated in the handbook.

Bride's signature (or electronic signature)

Groom's signature (or electronic signature)

✓ **CATHOLIC PRIEST/ DEACON INFORMATION**

Information of your local priest / deacon interviewing & collecting the paperwork for your Wedding Data File:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Information of the priest/deacon officiating at your wedding ceremony:

If same as above, write SAME. Do not leave blank.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____



By signing this document you agree to Our Lady of Mercy policies and procedures. We reserve the right to amend our policies and procedures at any time and we are not obligated to send notice of change.

✓ **Check these boxes to indicate that your payment and permission to marry are enclosed.**



Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed with this reservation contract. Payment is Non-Refundable. If you cancel for any reason your payment will be forfeited.



Permission from your Pastor to marry outside your parish is enclosed.

WE HAVE READ THE CATHOLIC WEDDING HANDBOOK AND UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

please initial each box:

We must meet with our local priest preparing our documentation to conduct the Pre-marital Interview (also known as the Pre-marital Investigation). We must provide this priest with the following documentation:

- Recent copy Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation certificates (dated within the last six months with the official parish seal);
- Two letters of free status for a non-Catholic.
- Annulment documentation if necessary.
- We are aware that our paperwork is due at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel two months prior to our wedding.

We must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program (Pre-Cana), *this is in addition to the Pre-marital investigation.*

We must make arrangements for a Roman Catholic priest or deacon to officiate at our ceremony. We understand that Salve Regina University does to provide a priest or deacon.

A RHODE ISLAND WEDDING LICENSE must be attained no earlier than 90 days before our wedding.

PROTOCOLS AT A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY:

- Reservations are made in three hour blocks: first hour for setup and arrival, second hour for the ceremony, and third hour for receiving lines and pictures. Please be on time.
- Respect for the Catholic nature of our property – please remove your trash including all programs, and flowers boxes, please watch your language, please behave graciously.
- We cannot guarantee that there will not be another wedding or university event in other areas of the campus. Please be respectful of other events.
- No food or beverages (except water) in the chapel before, during and after the rehearsal or wedding ceremony. –No Alcohol allowed!
- We do not have a bridal prep area. Please arrive prepared. No curling irons, flat irons or hairspray allowed. Please have makeup prepared (including touch-ups) before entering the chapel.

We have read, in its entirety, the **Catholic Wedding Handbook** and we are accountable for following through with our responsibilities in a timely fashion and agree follow policies of OLM chapel. We understand that we are responsible for the behavior of our guests while they are on Salve Regina University property including damage they may cause.

Return via Postal Mail to: Catholic Wedding Coordinator, Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Ave. Newport, RI 02840 or electronically to: catholicweddings@salve.edu

Music We will only communicate with the bride and groom for music selection.

The music you choose for your Catholic wedding ceremony needs to reflect the sacramental and sacred nature of the service. While you are free to hire musicians of your own choosing, we highly recommend that you hire the organist at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, for your ceremony, if available. They will guide you through the process of music selection and ensure that all music is appropriate for your Catholic wedding ceremony. If you choose to hire other musicians, you will need to consult with the priest who is officiating your ceremony to ensure that all music is approved for a Catholic wedding ceremony. Music is not included in your ceremony fee.

Please contact Salve's Minister of Music

Wedding Liturgy and Music Details

The celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, which is rooted in the Church's regular worship life, is not a private family function, nor is it merely a social affair or a personal expression of your love for one another. Rather, it is an action of the entire church in whose presence you commit yourselves to one another. Because the Sacrament of Marriage is worship, it is principally congregational. And because it is congregational, every effort should be made to enable the assembly to participate in a full and active manner. Everyone present should be encouraged to participate.

Wedding Music Guidelines

Music for the wedding should be planned jointly by the couple utilizing the approved **Wedding Music Guideline** for Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, in consultation with the organist hired by the couple. Remember that the Sacrament of Marriage is a liturgical celebration. Therefore, one of the basic principles that should underlie your selection of music is whether the music is indeed liturgical music. Popular songs and secular music, no matter how meaningful they may be to you, have no place in the church. They may be appropriately performed at your wedding reception. For the wedding liturgy you'll want to ensure the emphasis is on sacred music, which derives its context from scriptural and liturgical sources, and by its very nature enhances your union within the liturgical rites being celebrated. You'll want the music to be stylistically fitting for the church space and consistent with the values of a Catholic wedding. In order to prevent any hardship of "having your heart set on a song", please first consult your organist prior to making any musical plans.

<p>Please note: all music and musicians for the wedding must be confirmed and finalized at least six months prior to the wedding date.</p>

Wedding Music Selections Guideline Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, Salve Regina University Prelude and Gathering

Prior to the beginning of the wedding liturgy, there is 10-15 minutes of prelude music as guests arrive and are seated. Music during this time is selected at the discretion of the musicians and encompasses a combination of pieces that mirror the festive nature of the occasion as well as the quiet dignity of prayerful reflection.

Seating of the Parents – Optional

Couples often wish to have the seating of their parents highlighted and accompanied by a special piece of music. The seating of the parents takes place just prior to the procession of the wedding party, so the music should be clearly different from that of the processional to follow. A meditative vocal solo or relatively quiet instrumental piece is usually best here. If this is desired, please select an appropriate vocal solo or instrumental selection from the list below.

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Seating of the Parents Selection:

VOCAL SOLO

Vocal: Be Thou With Them - Johann Sebastian Bach
Vocal: Wedding Hymn - George Frideric Handel
Vocal: Ave Maria - Gabriel Fauré
Vocal: Ave Maria - Franz Schubert
Vocal: This Love - Donald Busarow
Vocal: Now With Thanksgiving - Irish Folk Tune

INSTRUMENTAL

Instrumental: Canon - Johann Pachelbel
Instrumental: La Grace - George Philipp Telemann
Instrumental: Four Seasons, Winter, Largo – Antonio Vivaldi
Instrumental: Xerxes, Largo - George Frideric Handel
Instrumental: Serenade – Jeremiah Clarke (Trumpet Required)
Instrumental: Ecosaise – Jeremiah Clarke (Trumpet Required)

Processional – Select One or Two*

The processional is an instrumental piece played by the organ. The procession could also be accompanied by an opening hymn that would be sung by the entire congregation. It is customary at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel to choose one piece of music for the entire procession. The wedding rite does not specify a change in music for the entrance of the bride. Since the ritual calls for a single liturgical procession, it is highly recommended that the same piece you select will be played for the entire wedding processional. Keep in mind that the main aisle is relatively short. *If you wish for a separate music selection for the procession of the bride, you may select a second processional.

While popular in other denominations, the “Bridal March” by Richard Wager and the “Wedding March” by Felix Mendelssohn are not permitted in the Catholic Church due to their non-liturgical nature. All processional music (including the bride’s processional) must be liturgical. Please choose from the list below.

Processional Selection:

The Planets: Jupiter-Gustav Holst
Trumpet Voluntary* • Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune* • Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune in D* • David Johnson
Prelude to the Te Deum* • Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Rondeau* • John-Joseph Mouret
Minuet* • Jeremiah Clarke (requires a trumpeter)
Royal Fireworks Music: Overture • G.F. Handel
Canon • Johann Pachelbel
Rigaudon – Andre Cembra
Sonata No. 3: Allegro Maestoso • Felix Mendelssohn

Pieces marked with an asterisk * may feature the addition of a trumpet. But: a trumpet is not required for the piece.

The Liturgy of the Word

In the Liturgy of the Word, Christians come together to thank God for God’s gifts. Listening to God’s word in scriptures, they grow in faith more conformed to the mind of Christ. The Liturgy celebrates the wonders of creation and gives thanks for the reality of redemption. The Liturgy of the Word is a celebration of God today speaking to our hearts and souls. The Liturgy of the Word consists of: First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, and Gospel.

You will select your first reading, second reading and Gospel with your priest.

[Responsorial Psalm – Select One](#)

If there is a cantor, the responsorial Psalm will be sung. If there will not be a cantor, the responsorial psalm will be spoken. If you are having a cantor, please select from below. If you are not having a cantor please select with your priest.

Responsorial Psalm Selection: We suggest the following.

Psalm 33 • J. Robert Carroll

"The earth is full of the goodness, the goodness of the Lord."

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Psalm 103 • David Haas

"The Lord is kind and merciful."

Psalm 103 • Richard Proulx

"My soul give thanks to the Lord, and bless God's Holy Name."

Psalm 104 • A. Gregory Murray

"The earth is full of your riches, O Lord, in wisdom you made them all."

Psalm 104 • Ronald Amatt

"Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."

Psalm 112 • J. Robert Carroll

"Happy are those who do what the Lord commands."

Psalm 118 • Richard Proulx

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice, let us rejoice, let us rejoice and be glad."

Psalm 128 • James Chepponis

"May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives."

Psalm 145 • Marty Haugen

"The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures."

Psalm 148 • Robert Batastini

"Let all praise the name of the Lord."

[Gospel Acclamation](#)

Before the Gospel reading, an Alleluia is always sung (except during Lent). This will be led by the cantor. (Since the Alleluia is a standard liturgical response, it is taken from standard liturgical repertoire.) During the season of Lent, alleluias are omitted from the Church's liturgies, and the Lenten gospel acclamation "Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ" is sung instead, led by the cantor.

[Liturgy of the Eucharist](#)

Skip if not having a full Mass.

While the Liturgy of the Word focuses upon the Word of the Lord spoken to us here and now, the Liturgy of the Eucharist centers upon the altar as a place of sacrifice and as the table from which, as Christians, we are fed.

[Offertory](#)

Skip if not having a full Mass.

If you are planning a full Mass, the liturgy continues with music during the offertory and preparation of the altar. This usually takes very little time, so a short organ improvisation or instrumental selection is usually most effective at this point. The selection of the offertory music is left up to the musicians.

[Eucharistic Acclamations](#)

Skip if not having a full Mass.

During Mass, the Eucharistic Prayer follows next. The cantor will lead the congregation in singing the responses within the prayer. Also called Eucharistic Acclamations, these include the Sanctus (Holy, Holy), the Memorial Acclamation, and the Great Amen. These responses are taken from the standard liturgical repertoire. The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) will also be sung.

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[Communion Procession – Select One](#)

Skip if not having a full Mass.

In selecting music for communion, couples will want to keep in mind the nature of the Eucharistic rite as a sign of the unity of everyone gathered. If you have a congregation that likes to sing, a congregational hymn would be very appropriate here. A vocal solo or a meditative organ selection could work well here too. Please note that one piece of music is usually sufficient for communion.

[Communion Selection:](#)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

Congregational Hymn: God Is Love • Richard Proulx
Congregational Hymn: Gather Us Together • Owen Alstott
Congregational Hymn: Sing to the Lord • Owen Alstott
Congregational Hymn: One Bread, One Body • John Foley
Congregational Hymn: Mandatum Novum • Christopher Willcock

If you would like to use a vocal solo, rather than a congregational hymn, here are several well-known choices:

VOCAL SOLO:

Vocal Solo: Panis Angelicus • César Franck
Vocal Solo: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring • Bach
Vocal Solo: When Love Is Found • English
The Call: Ralph Vaughan Williams

If you simply prefer instrumental music at communion instead, here are some instrumental selections:

INTRUMENTAL:

Instrumental: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring • J. S. Bach
Instrumental: Sleepers, Awake • J. S. Bach
Instrumental: Water Music: Air • G. F. Handel
Instrumental: Rhosymedre • Ralph Vaughan Williams

[Meditation to the Blessed Mother – Optional](#)

If you have a devotion to the Blessed Mother and would like to show this devotion by presenting flowers to

the Blessed Mother's devotional area in the church, please indicate below. It is best to discuss this with your priest or deacon before choosing to do so.

The Meditation to the Blessed Mother takes place prior to the recessional. During the meditation, music may be sung by the vocalist as a reflection of the personal, devotional prayer of the bride and groom. Music during this moment is usually a setting of the "Ave Maria" or other appropriate hymn to Mary. Here are some beautiful possibilities:

Meditation to the Blessed Mother Selection:

Ave Maria • Franz Schubert
Ave Maria • Bach–Gounod
Ave Maria • Gabriel Fauré
Ave Maria • Jacob Arcadelt
O Mary of Graces • Traditional Irish
Hail, Holy Queen • Salve Regina Coelitum

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Recessional – Select One

The wedding recessional is usually a festive and joyous musical expression. Most often played by the organ alone or with trumpet or other instruments, there are countless possibilities, including these listed here. You might notice that some of these same pieces are listed as processions earlier on this page. That's because they can work for either the entrance procession at the beginning of the wedding or the exit recessional at the end. The only difference is that usually they're played a little faster if used here at the end. They all sound great with the addition of a trumpet, but they also sound great with just the organ.

Recessional Selection:

Trumpet Voluntary* • John Stanley
Trumpet Voluntary* • Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune* • Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune in D* • David N. Johnson
Water Music: Hornpipe* • George Frideric Handel
Royal Fireworks Music: The Rejoicing • George Frideric Handel
Rondeau* • Jean Joseph Mouret
Symphony No. 9: Ode to Joy* • Ludwig van Beethoven
Toccatà • Giambattista Martini (Requires a trumpeter)
Pieces marked with an asterisk * may feature the addition of a trumpet. But: a trumpet is not required for the piece.

Contact information for Music

- Kyle Madeiros (401) 855-5585 or e-mail: stmarykyle@gmail.com
- Patrick Aiken (401) 474-6867

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Cantors

The cantor leads the liturgical music at your wedding and sings any sacred solo repertoire. Remember that you've chosen to celebrate your wedding within the context of the Catholic liturgy, where singing is normative. The cantor will help leading the singing of your family and friends. The role of the cantor is a unique one, and it differs quite markedly from simply singing as a soloist. Cantors are thoroughly familiar with the musical requirements of the wedding liturgy, and comfortable working with the acoustics of Our Lady of Mercy Chapel and its sound system. Our recommended cantors are professionally trained and are already experienced in working with the chapel organist and clergy. They can also sing solo vocal repertoire exceptionally beautifully. A cantor is not included in your ceremony fee and is not part of the musician fee.

End of Music

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Catholic Wedding Ceremony Outline:

Entrance Rite

Prelude

"name of song" by composer

Groom's Mother and Father

Groom's Grandparents

Bride's Grandparents

Bride's Mother

Processional

"name of song" by composer

Groomsmen

Groom and Best Man

Priest / Deacon

Ring Bearer

Bridal Attendants

Maid of Honor

Flower Girl

Entrance of the Bride

"name of song" by composer

Opening Prayer

(name of priest / deacon)

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: (reading from the Old Testament)

(name of reader)

Responsorial Psalm: "name of song"

Second Reading: (reading from the New

Testament)

(name of reader)

Gospel Acclamation: "name of acclamation"

Gospel Reading: (reading from the Gospel)
(name of priest / deacon)

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayer of the Faithful (name of reader)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

(by name and name)

The Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Holy Communion

Prayer After Communion

Final Blessing

Recessional

"name of song" by composer

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Suggested Scripture Readings And Prayers:

Select One Old Testament Reading, One New Testament Reading, And A Gospel Reading.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Old Testament Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Then God said:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

the birds of the air, and the cattle,

and over all the wild animals

and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image;

in the divine image he created him;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

"Be fertile and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,

and all the living things that move on the earth."

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The Word of the Lord

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A reading from the Book of Genesis

Old Testament
Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone.

I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the LORD God formed out of the ground

various wild animals and various birds of the air,

and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle,

all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals;

but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man,

and while he was asleep,

he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib

that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called 'woman,'

for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife,

and the two of them become one body.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,

her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,

has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,

all the days of her life.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,

and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity.

She opens her mouth in wisdom,

and on her tongue is kindly counsel.

The woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,

and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Sirach

Happy the husband of a good wife,

twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,

peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift

bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;

Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,

and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,

her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,

and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,

priceless her chaste soul.

Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens,

the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover-here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me,
"Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!
"O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,

Let me see you,
let me hear your voice,
For your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely."

My lover belongs to me and I to him;
He says to me:

Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed
and prayed with his wife Sarah.

They began with these words:

Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;

Praised be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.

You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve

To be his help and support:

And from these two the human race descended.

You said, "It is not good for the man to be alone;

Let us make him a partner like himself."

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and her,

And allow us to live together to a happy old age."

They said together. "Amen Amen."

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

New Testament
Colossians 3:12-17

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

New Testament 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:8a

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues
but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains
but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous,
it is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord

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A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

New Testament
Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.
For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the church,
because we are members of his body.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh."

This is a great mystery,
I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

New Testament
1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God.

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord

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A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Gospel
Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Gospel
Matthew 22:35-40

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law,

tested Jesus by asking,

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him,

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets

depend on these two commandments."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Gospel
Mark 10:6-9

Jesus said:

"From the beginning of creation,

'God made them male and female.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother

and be joined to his wife,

and the two shall become one flesh.'

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together,

no human being must separate."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Gospel
John 2:1-11

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water."

So they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them,
"Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."

So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
(although the servers who had drawn the water knew),
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,

"Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely,
an inferior one is served;
but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Gospel
John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

As the Father loves me, so I also love you.
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments,
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Gospel
John 15:12-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me,
but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name
he may give you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Prayer of The Faithful

PRIEST: Let us bring our prayers and petitions before the One who loves us so much that he sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

For all members of the church that they may grow more faithful in their commitments to God and to each other. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all leaders of government, that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty by striving for a greater spirit of solidarity among all peoples. Let us pray to the Lord.

For married persons that they may continue to grow in love, be able to forgive and find happiness with the passing of each day. Let us pray to the Lord.

For ___ and ___, that they may have divine assistance at every moment and the constant support of friends and family. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are ill, that they may be strengthened by God's help. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, especially for the relatives and friends of ___ and ___, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord.

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