

Blessed Sacrament Church would like to congratulate you on your engagement! We look forward to celebrating your special day!

While there are many things to think about, the music for your wedding should be one at the top of your list. Choosing appropriate music suitable for the occasion can seem overwhelming, but know that the priests and the music coordinator are here to help! A few things to keep in mind:

****Catholic wedding music is music we can all sing together.** The Church values singing together because the liturgy is meant to express the unity of all the people gathered. Singing together shows and strengthens that unity. When everyone sings together, the focus is no longer on one singer or even on the song, but on the group and what the group is doing, and can do, together. Group singing says that each of us is necessary and we're all in this together. Your family and friends are there to support you. Let them express it by choosing music they can sing together.

****Catholic wedding music is liturgical.** The music we use in church is different than what you hear on the radio because it is specifically written for Catholic liturgy, that is, it's liturgical music. Not only does liturgical music have lyrics that fit the theme of the liturgy, but more importantly, liturgical music needs to fulfill the specified function of each part of the liturgy. Every liturgy has assigned words and actions that happen in a specific order. The music used during the liturgy must "serve the liturgy" so that the music fits the purpose, length, and assigned texts, if any, for each particular moment. The music coordinator is there to assist you. In other words, feel free to discuss your "favorites" with one another, but know that any and all music must be approved by the Presider and the music coordinator.

****Catholic wedding music is rooted in Scripture, sacred writings and/or Catholic Church teaching.** Because your wedding is a ritual of the Catholic Church, the lyrics of your wedding songs need to represent the Catholic faith. Your best bet is to stick with words from the Bible or with songs you find in your parish's hymnals. When you are at church next Sunday, look through your parish's song book for Catholic hymns for weddings. Often, hymnals will group songs together by theme or purpose. Look in the index or table of contents for sections of hymns on "love" or "marriage".

So, can you use music that does not necessarily fit these three key elements? Well, that depends. As stated above, any and all music **must be approved** by the Presider and the music coordinator. Remember, however, that there are many other times a song may be better suited throughout the course of your special day -- perhaps at the rehearsal dinner or during your reception. Know that guidelines and restrictions are not in place to put a damper on your day; they are in place to keep the day what it is intended to be -- holy, sacred and sacramental.

Feel free to contact any one of us regarding any questions, comments or concerns you may have. We are here to help you in any way possible. Once again, congratulations to you both! Know we are praying for you as you begin your lives together in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Msgr. Gerald Ward
Pastor

Fr. Kyle Lucas
Parochial Vicar

BethAnn Wirth
Music Coordinator

***Guidelines taken from www.togetherforlifeonline.com. Please refer to this web page for more detailed explanation.*